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Dun's Review

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A Weekly Survey of Business Conditions in the United States & Canada
Established 1893

Volume 39

No. 1963



Saturday, May 9, 1931

Economic Review of the Week

Current Status of Rubber Industry

Reported by Dun Correspondents

Insolvency Record for April

Departments

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

MONEY

METALS

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

CREDITS

TEXTILES

SECURITIES

COLLECTIONS

GRAINS

COMMODITY PRICES

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WHOLESALE QUOTATIONS OF COMMODITIES

Corrected each week to Friday

| ARTICLE | This Week | Last Year | ARTICLE | This Week | Last Year | ARTICLE | This Week | Last Year |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|
| BEANS: Pos. choice...100 lb | 5.00 | 7.00 | Gambler, Plantation...lb | 6 3/4 | 7 3/4 | Cottonseed, spot...lb | 7.20 | 8.70 |
| Red kidney, choice..." | 8.50 | 9.50 | Indigo, Madras..." | 1.25 | 1.25 | Lard, extra, Winter st..." | 9 3/4 | 11 1/4 |
| White kidney, choice..." | 6.25 | 10.00 | Prussiate potash, yellow..." | 18 1/4 | 18 1/4 | Linsed, city raw, carlots..." | 9.0 | 14.0 |
| BUILDING MATERIAL: | | | FERTILIZERS: | | | Neatfoot, pure..." | 11 1/4 | 13 |
| Brick, N. Y., delivered, 1000 | †.... | 15.00 | Bones, ground, steamed, | | | Rosin, first run...gal | 54 | 61 |
| Portland Cement, N. Y., Trk | | | 1 1/4% am., 60% bone | | | Soya-Bean, tank, cars, M. W. lb | 6.0 | 9 3/4 |
| loads, delivered...bbl | 1.69 | 2.60 | phosphate, Chicago...ton | 25.00 | 28.50 | Petroleum, Pa. cr., at well, bbl | 1.22 | 2.43 |
| Chicago, carloads..." | †.... | 1.95 | Muriate potash 80%...100 lbs | 37.15 | 37.15 | Kerosene, wagon delivery...gal | 17 | 15 |
| Philadelphia, carloads..." | †.... | 2.50 | Nitrate soda..." | 2.05 | 2.10 | Gas's auto in gar., st. bbls. " | 13.8 | 14.3 |
| Lath, Eastern spruce...100 | 3.65 | 4.50 | Sulphate ammonia, do | | | PAINTS: Litharge, com'l | | |
| Lime, hyd., masons, N. Y., ton | †.... | 14.00 | metlic, delivered..." | 1.75 | 1.90 | Am. Red Lead, dry...100 lbs | 13 1/4 | .. |
| Shingles, Cyp. Pr. No. 1...1000 | 10.00 | 13.00 | Sulphate potash bs. 90%...ton | 48.25 | 48.25 | White Lead in Paste...lb | 13 1/4 | 13 1/4 |
| Red Cedar, Clear, rail..." | 3.51 | 3.96 | FLOUR: Spring Pat...106 lbs | 4.60 | 5.75 | " " dry..." | 13 1/4 | .. |
| BURLAP, 10 1/2-oz, 40-in...yd | 5.70 | 6.65 | Winter, Soft Straights..." | 4.05 | 5.25 | Zinc, American..." | 6 1/4 | 6 1/4 |
| 8-oz. 40-in..." | 4.40 | 5.35 | Fancy Minn. Family..." | 6.00 | 6.95 | " P. P. R. S..." | 9 3/4 | 9 3/4 |
| COAL: f.o.b. Mines...ton | | | GRAIN: Wheat, No. 2 R...bu | 96 3/4 | 122 1/4 | PAPER: Newsroll, Contract | 59.00 | 62.00 |
| Bituminous... | | | Corn, No. 2 yellow..." | 75 3/4 | 96 3/4 | Book, S. & S. C...lb | 5 1/4 | 6 |
| Navy Standard..." | 2.15 | 2.20 | Oats, No. 3 white..." | 38 1/4 | 53 1/4 | Writing, tub-sized..." | 10 | 10 |
| High Volatile, Steam..." | 1.25 | 1.25 | Rye, No. 2, F.O.B..." | 44 3/4 | 58 1/4 | No. 1 Kraft..." | 4 | 6 |
| Anthracite, Company... | | | Hay, No. 1...100 lb | 1.30 | 1.45 | Sulphite, Dom. bl...100 lbs | 2.40 | 3.00 |
| Sove...ton | 7.20 | 8.60 | HEMP: Midway, Fair Cur- | | | Old Paper No. 1 Mix..." | 15 | 25 |
| Sore..." | 6.95 | 8.00 | rent...lb | 5 1/2 | .. | PEAS: Yellow split, dom...100 bs | 3.75 | 5.75 |
| Egg..." | 7.20 | 8.10 | HIDES, Chicago: | | | PLATINUM ... | 30.00 | 53.00 |
| Nut..." | 4.95 | 4.40 | Packer, No. 1 native...lb | 8 | 14 | PROVISIONS, Chicago: | | |
| COFFEE, No. 7 Rio...lb | 5 1/4 | 9 1/4 | No. 1 Texas..." | 8 | 14 | Beef Steers, best fat, 100 lbs | 9.50 | 14.75 |
| " Santos No. 4..." | 9 | 14 1/4 | Colorado..." | 7 1/4 | 13 1/4 | Hogs, 220-250 lb, w'ts..." | 8.60 | 10.10 |
| COTTON GOODS: | | | Cow, heavy native..." | 17 | 12 | Lard, N. Y. Mid. W..." | 8.45 | 10.75 |
| Brown sheetings, standard...yd | 8 | 10 1/4 | Brand, Cows..." | 17 | 12 | Pork, mess...bbl | 24.50 | 32.00 |
| Wide sheetings, 10-4..." | 14 1/4 | 10 1/4 | No. 1 buff hides..." | 6 | 10 | Lamb, best fat, natives...100 lbs | 9.25 | 10.50 |
| Bleached sheetings, stand..." | 9 1/4 | 10 1/4 | No. 1 extremes..." | 7 1/2 | 12 | Sheep, fat ewes..." | 8.75 | 6.25 |
| Medium..." | 6 | 8 | No. 1 kip..." | 7 1/2 | 13 1/4 | Short ribs, sides l'ce..." | 8.75 | 14.25 |
| Brown sheetings, 4 yd..." | 7 1/4 | 8 | No. 1 calskins..." | 13 1/4 | 18 1/4 | Bacon, N. Y., 140 down...lb | 12 1/2 | 16 1/4 |
| standard prints..." | 8 1/4 | 17 | Chicago city calskins..." | 22 | 17 | Hams, N. Y., 18 down...lb | 14 | 18 1/4 |
| Brown drills, standard..." | 8 | 10 | HOPS: Pacific, Pr. '80..." | 3.90 | 5 1/4 | Tallow, N. Y., sp. loose..." | 3 1/2 | 6 1/4 |
| Staple ginghams..." | 22 1/4-24 | 34 | JUTE: first marks..." | | | RAYON: | | |
| Print cloths, 38 1/4-in, 64x60 | | | LEATHER: | | | Den. Fil. | | |
| Hose, belting, duck..." | | | Union backs, tr..." | 30 | 40 | a 150 22-32..." | 75 | 1.15 |
| DAIRY: | | | Scoured oak-beds, No. 1..." | 35 | 46 | b 150 40..." | 1.30 | 1.60 |
| Butter, creamery extra...lb | 23 1/4 | 30 1/4 | No. 2 butt bends..." | 52 | 60 | a Viscoze Process. b Cellulose | | |
| Cheese, N. Y., fancy..." | †.... | 24 | LUMBER: | | | Acetate. | | |
| Eggs, nearby, fancy...doz | 22 | 32 | White Pine, No. 1 | | | RICE: Dom. Long Grain, Fcy lb | 6 | 6 1/4 |
| Fresh, gathered, ex. Brats..." | 20 | 26 1/2 | Barn, 1x4...per M ft. | 55.50 | 60.00 | Blue Rose, choice..." | 3 1/4 | 4 1/4 |
| DRIED FRUITS: | | | FAS Quartered Wh..." | 154.00 | 154.00 | Foreign, Japan, fancy..." | 3 1/4 | 4 1/4 |
| Apples, evaporated, fancy, lb | 8 1/4 | 14 | FAS Plain Wh. Oak, | | | RUBBER: Up-River, fine...lb | 8 1/4 | 15 1/4 |
| Apricots, choice..." | 13 | 14 1/4 | 4/4..." | 115.00 | 109.00 | Plan, 1st Later crude..." | 6 1/4 | 14 1/4 |
| Citron, imported..." | 16 1/4 | 22 | FAS Plain Red Gum, | | | SILK: Italian Ex. Clas...lb | 2.65 | 4.40 |
| Current, cleaned, 20-lb box | 11 1/4 | 11 1/4 | 4/4..." | 85.00 | 105.00 | Japan, Extra Crack..." | 2.55 | 4.30 |
| Leonon Peel, Imp'd..." | 15 | 14 1/4 | FAS Poplar, 4/4, 7 to | | | SPICES: Mace, Banda No. 1...lb | 52 | 75 |
| Orange Peel, Imp'd..." | 16 | 16 | 17..." | 105.00 | 112.00 | Cloves, Zanzibar..." | 24 | 29 |
| Peaches, Cal. standard..." | 7 1/4 | 12 1/4 | FAS Ash 4/4..." | 82.00 | 95.00 | Nutmegs, 105s-110s..." | 16 1/2 | 23 |
| Prunes, Cal. 40-50, 25-lb box | 6 1/4 | 9 1/4 | Beech, No. 1 Common, | | | Ginger, Cochon..." | 11 1/2 | 18 |
| DRUGS AND CHEMICALS: | | | 4/4..." | 50.00 | 50.00 | Pepper, Lampung, black..." | 12 1/4 | 26 1/4 |
| Acetanilid, U.S.P., bbls...lb | 36 | 36 | FAS Birch, Red, 4/4..." | 105.00 | 125.00 | Mic..." | 19 | 33 |
| Acid, Acetic, 28 deg. 100 | 2.60 | 3.87 | FAS Cypress, 4/4..." | 82.50 | 87.50 | " Singapore, white..." | 20 | .. |
| Carbolic, cane..." | 17 | 17 | FAS Chestnut, 4/4..." | 75.00 | 82.00 | Mombasa, red..." | 20 | .. |
| Citric, domestic...lb | 37 1/4 | 46 | No. 1 Com. Mahogany..." | 154.00 | 165.00 | SUGAR: Cent. 96...100 lbs | 3.20 | 3.27 |
| Muriatic, 18"...100 | 1.00 | 1.00 | FAS H. Maple, 4/4..." | 85.00 | 90.00 | Fine gran., in bbls..." | 4.40 | 4.90 |
| Nitric, 52"..." | 6.50 | 6.50 | Canada Spruce, 2x4..." | 32.00 | 36.00 | TEA: Formosa, standard...lb | 14 | 14 1/4 |
| Oxalic, spot..." | 10 1/2 | 11 1/4 | N. C. Pine, 4/4", Edge | | | Fine..." | 22 | 29 |
| Sulphuric, 100..." | 55 | 55 | Under 12" No. 2 and | | | Japan, basket fired..." | 15 | 18 |
| Tartaric crystals..." | 31 1/4 | 38 | Yellow Pine, 3x12..." | 44.50 | 47.50 | Congu, standard..." | 12 | 12 1/4 |
| Fluor Spar, acid, 98%...ton | 38.50 | 38.50 | FAS Basswood, 4/4..." | 58.00 | 66.00 | VEGETABLES: Cabbage...bag | 1.00 | .. |
| Alcohol, 190 proof U.S.P., gal | 2.37 | 2.55 1/4 | Douglas Fir, Water | | | Onions, Eastern, Yel...bag | 60 | .. |
| " wood, 95%..." | 44 | 50 | Ship, c. i. f., N. Y. | | | Potatoes, L. I...bbl | 3.75 | 5.00 |
| " denatured, form 5..." | 22 | 43 | 2x4", 18 feet..." | 23.75 | 26.25 | Turnips, Can., Rutabaga...bag | 1.60 | 2.75 |
| Alum, lump...lb | 3.25 | 3.50 | Cal. Redwood, 4/4..." | | | WOOL, Boston: | | |
| Ammonia, anhydrous..." | 15 1/4 | 14 | Clear..." | 71.00 | 75.00 | Average 25 quot...lb | 39.70 | 50.72 |
| Arsenic, white..." | 20 | 4 | North Carolina Pine, | | | Ohio & Pa. Fleeces: | | |
| Balsam, Copaiba, S. A..." | 10.00 | 11.00 | Roofers, 13/16x6..." | 24.50 | 29.50 | Delaine Unwashed..." | 25 | 29 |
| Flr. Canada...gal | 1.50 | 1.89 | METALS: | | | Half-Blood Combing..." | 25 | 30 |
| Paru..." | 2.64 | 2.25 | Pig Iron: No. 2X, Ph...ton | 17.76 | 20.26 | Half-Blood Clothing..." | 20 | 26 |
| Bicarbonate soda, Am...100 lb | 2.00 | 2.00 | No. 2 valley furnace..." | 17.00 | 18.50 | Common and Brail..." | 16 | 24 |
| Bleaching powder, over | | | Bessemer, Pittsburgh..." | 18.76 | 20.76 | Delaine Unwashed..." | 23 | 25 |
| 34%...100 | 2 1/2 | 2 1/2 | Gray Forge, Pittsburgh..." | †.... | 19.76 | Mic and N. Y. Fleeces: | 23 | 27 |
| Borax, crystal, in bbl..." | 18.00 | 18.00 | No. 2 South Cincinnati..." | 14.19 | 16.69 | Half-Blood Combing..." | 23 | 27 |
| Brimstone, crus. dom...ton | 1.82 | 2.05 | Bullets, remodeling, Pittsbu..." | 30.00 | 33.00 | Half-Blood Clothing..." | 19 | 26 |
| Calomel, American...lb | 55 | 60 | Forging, Pittsburgh..." | 35.00 | 36.00 | Wis. Mo., and N. E.: | 20 | 25 |
| Camphor, slabs..." | 15.00 | 15.00 | Wire rods, Pittsburgh..." | 43.00 | 48.00 | Half-Blood..." | 20 | 25 |
| Castor Oil, No. 1...lb | 10 1/2 | 12 1/2 | O-h rails, hy., at mill..." | 1.70 | 2.00 | Quarter-Blood..." | 20 | 27 |
| Caustic soda, 76%...100 | 2.25 | 3.00 | Iron bars, Chicago...100 lbs | 1.65 | 1.75 | Southern Fleeces: | | |
| Chlorate potash, U.S.P..." | 25 | 27 | Tank plates, Pittsburgh..." | 1.65 | 1.75 | Ordinary Mediums..." | 20 | 26 |
| Chloroform, U.S.P..." | 8.50 | 8.50 | Shapes, Pittsburgh..." | 1.65 | 1.75 | Ky., W. Va., etc.; Three- | 24 | 33 |
| Cocaine, Hydrochloride...oz | 23 1/4 | 26 1/4 | Sheets, black No. 24, | | | eighths Blood Unwashed..." | 23 | 32 |
| Creosote tartar, domestic...lb | 2.25 | 2.25 | Pittsburgh..." | 2.25 | 2.55 | Quarter-Blood Combing..." | 23 | 32 |
| Epsom Salts...100 | 12 1/4 | 13 | Wire Nails, Pittsburgh..." | 1.90 | 2.15 | Texas, Scoured Basis: | | |
| Formaldehyde..." | 9 1/4 | 19 | Barb Wire, galvanized, | | | Fine, 12 months..." | 60 | 75 |
| Glycerine, C. P. in drums..." | 29 | 33 | Pittsburgh..." | 2.25 | 2.80 | Fine, 8 months..." | 55 | 68 |
| Gum-Arabic, Amber..." | 75 | 1.10 | Galv. Sheets No. 24, Pitts. | 2.55 | 3.30 | California, Scoured Basis: | | |
| Benzoil, Sumatra..." | 1.85 | 1.35 | Coke, Connellsville, oven...ton | 2.50 | 2.60 | Northern..." | 52 | 65 |
| Gamboge, pipe..." | 18 | 18 | Furnace, prompt ship..." | 3.50 | 3.50 | Southern..." | 50 | 60 |
| Shellac, D. C..." | 33 | 33 | Foundry, prompt ship..." | 22.90 | 24.30 | Oregon, Scoured Basis: | | |
| Tragacanth, Aleppo Ist..." | 8.75 | 4.25 | Aluminum, pig (ton lots)...lb | 6 3/4 | 7 1/4 | Fine & F. M. Staple..." | 60 | 74 |
| Licorice Extract..." | 7.95 | 8.95 | Antimony, ordinary..." | 9 | 12 1/2 | Valley No. 1..." | 52 | 68 |
| Powdered..." | 8 | 8 | Copper, Electrolytic..." | 3.60 | 5 | Territory, Scoured Basis: | | |
| Menthol, Japan, cases...oz | 12.00 | 12.00 | Zinc, N. Y..." | 4 | 5.40 | Fine Staple Cho..." | 57 | 70 |
| Morphine, Sulp., bulk...oz | 103.00 | 116.00 | Lead, N. Y..." | 23.30 | 32 1/2 | Fine Clothing..." | 54 | 65 |
| Nux Vomica, powdered...lb | 40 | 40 | Tin, N. Y..." | 5.00 | 5.25 | Pulled: Delaine..." | 73 | 87 |
| Opium, jobbing lots..." | 40 | 40 | MOLASSES AND SYRUP: | | | Fine Combing..." | 65 | 80 |
| Quinine, 100-os, tina...oz | 10 1/4 | 10 1/4 | Blackstrap-bbls...gal | 10 | 17 | Coarse Combing..." | 40 | 45 |
| Bechelle Salts...lb | 90 | 90 | Extra Fancy..." | 54 | 60 | California AA..." | 65 | 85 |
| Sal ammoniac, lump, imp..." | 7 1/4 | 7 1/4 | NAVAL STORES: Pitch...bbl | 6.50 | 7.00 | WOOLEN GOODS: | | |
| Sal soda, American...100 | 1.00 | 1.32 | Rosin "B"..." | 4.70 | 6.25 | Standard cheviot, 14-os...yd | 1.80 | 1.85 |
| Saltpetre, crystals..." | 45 | 48 | Tar, kiln burned..." | 10.00 | 13.00 | Serge, 16-os..." | 1.05 | 1.85 |
| Sassa-parilla, Honduras..." | 40 | 50 | Turpentine, carlots...gal | 53 1/4 | 48 1/2 | Serge, 16-os..." | 2.28 | 2.70 |
| Soda ash, 58% light...100 | 1.00 | 1.32 | OILS: Coconut, Spot, N. Y...lb | 4 1/2 | 6 1/2 | Fancy cassimere, 13-os..." | 1.82 1/4 | 2.50 |
| Soda benzoate..." | 40 | 50 | China Wood, bbls., spot..." | 6 1/4 | 10 1/4 | 36-in. all-worsted serge..." | 45 | 52 1/2 |
| DYE STUFFS— Bl-chromate | | | Cod, Newfoundland...gal | 48 | 60 | 36-in. all-worsted Pan..." | 45 | 51 1/4 |
| Potash, am...lb | 9 | 9 | Corn, crude, Mill...lb | 6 | 7 1/2 | Broadcloth, 54-in..." | 2.80 | 3.75 |
| Ochreous silver..." | 52 | 79 | | | | | | |
| Cutch, Rangoon..." | 10 1/4 | 13 1/4 | | | | | | |

Total Advances in Wholesale Commodity Prices—15; Total Declines in Wholesale Commodity Prices—40.

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Economic Review of the Week

THE business news of the week was not marked by developments which, in any way, indicated a reversal of the general trends which have recently been apparent. The accumulation of evidence during the period pointed rather to a continuance of the decline in general business activity than to any perceptible slackening in the rate of recession. Positive news there was, but the greater portion was of an uninspiring nature which did not effect any improvement in sentiment. There are, however, a number of elements in the present situation, which, viewed constructively, can only be interpreted in a favorable way in their effect upon the business outlook.

Further Reduction in Steel Activity

Following the usual seasonal trend for this week, the steel mills generally reported a lower per cent. of capacity in operation than was the case during the preceding week. New business does not appear to have developed in sufficient volume for some producers to enable them to retain their backlog intact. Steady pressure on the steel shares in the securities markets resulted from the expectation that the total business done by these companies during the second quarter might be less than their volume during the first quarter.

According to *The Iron Age*, some of the steel producing sections of the country have reached 35 and 40 per cent. of capacity, and softness has appeared in the steel price structure, as evidenced by lower quotations for finished steel products and scrap steel. The publication is, however, inclined to take a conservatively cheerful view of the situation because of the irregularity of operating declines which contrasts markedly

with the widespread, steady reductions reported regularly until the latter part of the month just passed.

Money Ease Continues

The Federal Reserve bank again cut the rate for acceptances on Wednesday, bringing the rate substantially below that which was in force as recently as a month ago. At the same time, the rediscount rates of the Boston and Philadelphia banks were lowered, the former being reduced from 2½ to 2 per cent. and the latter from 3½ to 3 per cent. On Thursday, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York lowered its rediscount rate from 2 to 1½ per cent., the lowest rediscount rate on record. These moves on the part of the central bank are further evidence of the remarkable money ease which has been an outstanding factor of the present period of reduced business activity.

Smaller Movement of Freight

Freight car loadings for the week ended April 25 declined by approximately 730 cars from the total of the week ended April 18. On percentage basis, this reduction is relatively unimportant, being less than 1 per cent. However, a gain of at least seasonal proportions had been expected, and the decline, slight though it was, was a disappointment to many observers. Freight car loadings since the beginning of 1931 have been well below those of 1930 and substantially below the freight car loadings of 1929.

In the four years from 1927 to 1930 the trend of car loadings has been irregularly upward from the first week in January to approximately the fourth week in September. The car loadings of recent weeks are still well above those reported during the first week of

SALIENT BUSINESS FACTS

| Latest Week: | 1931 | 1930 |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Bank Clearings..... | \$9,591,910,000 | \$12,053,121,000 |
| Crude Oil Output (barrels) | 2,475,100 | 2,595,200 |
| Electric Power Output, | | |
| K. W. H. | *1,622,146 | *1,672,315 |
| Freight Car Loadings..... | 759,272 | 906,879 |
| Failures (number)..... | 632 | 525 |
| Commodity Price Advances | 15 | 22 |
| Commodity Price Declines | 40 | 53 |
| Latest Month: | | |
| Merchandise Exports..... | \$237,000,000 | \$369,549,000 |
| Merchandise Imports..... | 211,000,000 | 300,460,000 |
| Building Permits..... | 102,214,800 | 117,178,500 |
| Pig Iron Output (tons)... | 2,019,529 | 3,181,868 |
| Steel Output (tons)..... | 2,722,479 | 4,109,492 |
| Unfilled Steel Tonnage.... | 3,995,330 | 4,570,653 |
| Cotton Consumption (bales) | 490,586 | 507,646 |
| Cotton Exports (bales)... | 605,461 | 477,678 |
| Dun's Price Index..... | \$149.419 | \$177.736 |
| Failures (number)..... | 2,386 | 2,198 |
| *Daily average production. | †Domestic consumption. | |
| * (000) omitted. | | |

the year, but the increases which have taken place in tonnage have not furnished confirmation for belief in the probability of a sharply rising volume of freight transported during the first nine months of the year.

Lower Commodity Prices in April

DUN's Index Number of commodity prices, which was calculated this week for the month of April, shows a decline of 2 per cent. from the figure for the month of March. While, in view of the known movements of some of the more important staples during the month, a decline of about this proportion had been expected, it inevitably added to the sum total of unfavorable business news. The close interdependence which exists between industrial activity and commodity prices has caused a greater interest in this factor during the period 1930-31 than during many recent years. It is regarded as axiomatic that a revival of industrial activity on a sufficiently large scale to start the business community once more on the road toward prosperity is extremely improbable in the face of steadily declining commodity prices. The situation appears more cheering, however, when it is borne in mind that many times in the past the combination of low commodity prices and cheap money has been a factor of importance in generating commercial expansion.

Recent Firmness in Grains and Cotton

An encouraging element in the commodity price situation during the early days of this month has been the strength of grain and cotton prices. These commodities are staples of great importance in the economic life of the nation and the fact that they are now ruling at prices somewhat above those seen in April

is one heartening feature of recent news. In view of the extreme sensitiveness of both markets, the present price level may prove to have resulted from temporary conditions unrelated to basic trends. Changes of this sort do not justify pronounced optimism but they are quite frequently the cause of a more hopeful attitude.

Readjustments Continue

While the factors which are most in evidence continue to present unfavorable comparisons with preceding periods, it must be remembered that there are many underlying forces about which little information is available, but which in the aggregate count for much when the total of industrial activity for the entire world, or a single nation, is calculated. As we review periods of reduced business activity in the past, we find statistical evidence and factual data which shows that at times when all accepted indicators could be interpreted least favorably from the business viewpoint, constructive forces and readjustments were in progress, the accumulated force of which, continued over a period of time, eventually wrought the changes most desired by thinking men.

At the present time, we know that industry, in general is taking a far more careful view of operating costs, quality of products and exploitation of markets than was the case as recently as one year ago.

The inevitable readjustments which accompany the appreciation on the part of the business world of the fact that entirely new conditions exist than those which previously prevailed, although more readily approximated than measured, are yet in the aggregate, the most potent of the underlying forces which breed business revival.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Eastern States

BOSTON.—While business continues to make progress, which may be considered more than seasonal, it is slow in approaching anything like 1929 levels. Many who were optimistic as to results earlier in the year are now more inclined to defer their expectations of gains. The receipts of cotton at the five principal centers of New England have been increasing steadily, which contrasts with a steady decline during the last quarter of 1930 and, allowing for seasonal tendencies, show an increase of 15 per cent. The sales of cotton dress goods at the department stores still show a declining tendency, but the movement of wash fabrics, percales and other fabrics, suitable for moderate-priced dresses, into the hands of the cutters is proceeding rapidly.

Fair-sized orders are being received for Fall delivery of the finer counts of gray goods. Print cloth prices are off about $\frac{1}{2}$ c. a yard. Prices of the raw cotton are dropping, and the New England mills are buying lightly, though their stocks are comparatively small. Current business in cotton yarns is light, though some inquiries for fair-sized lots are being received. Prices are slightly lower.

Total shoe production in New England for the first quarter of 1931 was 2.4 per cent. below that of the corresponding period of 1930, which compared with a decline of 10 per cent. for the country, as a whole. For 1930, Massachusetts produced 69,510,470 pairs of shoes, as compared with 83,539,555 pairs the year previous, and still leads in shoe production. Shoe factories continue to be fairly active, and there

is a slightly improved demand for leather. Tanners are buying raw hides only on price concessions. There is a fair demand for hardwood lumber from the automobile trade, and house trim manufacturers continue to use fair quantities. Furniture manufacturers are buying very little, though there is more call from radio cabinet manufacturers. Hardwood flooring is slow, and prices are easy. Building lumber is slow; lime, cement and brick are quiet. Paints continue active.

Contracts awarded in New England for the first quarter of the year amounted to \$76,238,000, as compared with \$66,880,000 for the same months of last year, or a gain of 14 per cent. Fifty-five Massachusetts municipalities report building permits for March at \$5,817,732, which was 41.4 per cent. less than those for March, 1930. Proportion of new, residential building was 46.3 per cent. in the cities and 62.4 per cent. in the towns. Contracts awarded in New England for the week amounted to \$6,598,000, as compared with \$11,776,900 for the corresponding week of last year.

Sales of pig iron during the past week have been about 2,000 tons. Prices are unchanged. In December, the index of New England activity was 23 per cent. below normal, but this has moved up to 19 per cent. below normal. Employment of labor in the shipbuilding plants has been increasing, and some of the metal-working plants have been taking on more men. Sales of New England department stores for March showed an increase over those of March, 1930, of 3 per cent., while Massachusetts stores made a gain of 4 per cent., and Boston stores 2 per cent.

NEWARK.—The improvement noted in retail distribution in this vicinity several weeks ago seems to have lost some of its momentum. Unit sales compare favorably with those of a year ago, but dollar volume, due to recessions in prices, is somewhat less. Hosiery, Spring millinery, women's footwear and leather goods are selling fairly well, but low temperatures prevailing during the early part of the week rather retarded trade at retail. Automobile accessories continue to sell in large volume, but price concessions are noticeable and competition is keen.

There is no improvement of note in the building trade, but there is a good volume of public and semipublic improvements proposed or under way that will lessen considerably the number of unemployed. Orders for coal and coke for domestic use for next Fall and Winter are slow in being received, and are below the normal for several years. The demand for commercial loans with banks has not improved. Bank clearings for the week were \$37,608,000, as compared with \$40,865,000 for the corresponding week of last year.

PHILADELPHIA.—General trade in this district seems to be holding its own, with inquiry broadening gradually in many lines. In the cutting-up trade, for instance, there is more activity, which is reflected in the sales of sewing thread, both silk and cotton. Home sewing seems to be on the increase, judging from the sales of notions and piece goods. Demand for clothing is smaller, with prices lower. Business with dress manufacturers is moderately active. There also has been a good increase in the demand for knitted sport coats, bathing suits and women's sweaters. The movement of millinery has slowed down a little, due to unfavorable weather conditions.

Sales of radio for the first three months of the current year were at a level higher than that for the corresponding period of 1930. At present, production is running seasonably low, with many new designs being perfected. The outlook for the coming season is encouraging, with lower prices in prospect. During April, there was a good influx of new orders for paper boxes, with the outlook improving slightly, even though prices have not advanced to the expected level. Although the wallpaper business is improving gradually, it still is uneven.

While inquiries for machinery are numerous, sales continue small. The plumbing supply business is about 50 per cent. below normal. The improvement in the demand for motor trucks, which started in March, continued during April. The movement of lumber is a little larger than it was thirty days ago, and the outlook is brighter than it has been for many months. The general demand for leather goods is weak, the buyers' market causing much price-cutting. Sporting goods dealers were favored with a normal business during the first four months of the year, current orders show an increase, and the outlook for Fall is more promising.

PITTSBURGH.—There has been a slight improvement in the volume of sales of retail stores, particularly in seasonal lines, but jobbers report only a slight gain in the number of purchases, with buying largely in small amounts. Lumber and other building materials continue to move slowly, with building construction still averaging about 50 per cent. lower than that of last year. There is a fair demand for hardware and implements, although builders' hardware continues to move slowly. Groceries and provisions are moving in fair volume, but prices continue low. Some improvement is noted in the demand for sporting goods and athletic merchandise; volume of business, however, is not up to that of previous years.

The rate of industrial operations has fallen off, to some extent, with steel plants operating at a lower rate. Production and shipments of plate glass are in greater volume, due largely to stronger demand for automobile purposes. There is a slightly better demand for window glass, but the April output was somewhat lower than that of March. Manufacturers of electrical equipment have been receiving some fair orders; the movement of electrical fixtures continues quiet.

A rather sharp increase is reported in the production of crude oil, particularly in the Central West. Output of bituminous coal continues at about the lowest rate for the year, with prices still running at a low rate. Prices of Western Pennsylvania grades of run-of-mine coal are quoted per net ton, at mines, as follows: Steam coal, \$1.50 to \$1.75; gas and coking coal, \$1.50 to \$1.75; and steam slack, 60c. to \$1.

BUFFALO.—Business shows a slight improvement over that of the week previous, but there is, as yet, little demand for warm weather requisites. Consumers have taken a waiting attitude, and appear to be passing up Spring merchandise, awaiting the advent of warmer weather for Summer requirements. The cool weather appears to have affected greatly the sale of women's apparel. There is some activity in women's footwear and hosiery, however, and men's clothing and furnishings are moving fairly well. Millinery demand is principally for ready-to-wear hats.

Camping and sport goods are receiving some attention, but sales are not showing the activity of former years. Hardware is moving slowly. Paints and oils are showing an upward trend. The building of single and double houses is showing more activity than for some months, reflected in a slight improvement in the builders' supply trade. The wholesaler reports road orders of fair size, with frequent duplications indicating low stocks in the hands of the retail merchant.

Southern States

ST. LOUIS.—Because of seasonal influences, business has shown a slight improvement; but, as compared with that of former years, there has been a substantial decrease. Taken as a whole, distribution has been more favorable than production, with the possible exception of shoes, production of which has been on the increase. Hardware and groceries also have come in for a fair amount of the increased volume. Commitments on the part of the retail trade generally, however, are confined to a close and conservative policy, and future requirements are being held within narrow limits, the downward trend of commodity prices serving to emphasize the disposition to buy cautiously.

The average rate of operations at iron and steel plants declined slightly during April. Under favorable weather, crop conditions have become favorable. With the danger of any killing frost now about past, the prospects for a good fruit crop are encouraging, and there has been sufficient moisture for all requirements.

There has been little change in the employment situation in the larger cities. Outdoor construction, however, is getting under way, especially on streets and highways, and this has absorbed some of the surplus common labor. The outlook for building locally is improving. There was an increase of more than \$2,000,000 in building work during the first quarter of this year, as compared with the record for the same period of 1930. Actual work on a majority of this, however, has not been started, the trend being toward bungalows and single family residences. Speculative building has fallen off considerably. Small weekly gains were recorded in railroad traffic during April, but the total was substantially smaller than that of a year and two years ago.

BALTIMORE.—Manufacturing plants generally are operating under rated capacity, and wholesale merchandising houses say that retailers continue to pursue a conservative buying policy. The unemployment situation is slowly improving, because of seasonal outdoor activities, and the money market continues easy, but there is little demand for funds, with which the banks still are surcharged. Unsatisfactory corporate earnings are not very pleasant news, but hope for a gradual improvement in trade has by no means been abandoned, and authorities still are confident of a business upturn later in the current year. The recent frost inflicted some damage on early crops in this State, particularly strawberries, and many tomato plants were killed; fruit buds in low-lying regions also were injured, but in the highlands there was little damage.

The petroleum industry still presents an unsolved problem and the advancing Spring season is lessening the demand for coal, despite price reductions in the anthracite division; bituminous output in this State is off, because of an inactive industrial demand. April construction permits, just released, were an agreeable surprise; the total for last month involved \$5,869,440, as contrasted with \$5,526,120 for the corresponding 1930 month; the total for March, 1931, was only \$2,366,760, so that the increase was about 133 per cent. This betterment activated the movement of all basic building materials, such as lumber, brick, cement, as well as benefited other industries which are influenced by fluctuating building operations; building supplies are noticeably cheaper.

(Continued on page 13)

National Money and Credit Conditions

Generally Easier Tone Apparent in Money Rates—Collection Conditions Relatively Unchanged

MONEY MARKETS

In Eastern Sections

Boston.—There is a slightly easier tone in the local money market at present, with the call rate $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., time money for six months $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and commercial paper $2\frac{1}{4}$ to 2½ per cent. Savings deposits of the Boston member banks increased about \$4,000,000 during the first quarter of the year, and the twelve mutual savings banks report an increase of about \$8,000,000. Borrowing of the member banks from the Federal Reserve bank during April averages less than \$1,000,000.

In South and Southwest

St. Louis.—Demand for money from commercial and industrial sources continues to be of relatively small volume, with the liquidation of commercial loans in considerable volume. Bank deposits have moved sharply upward. Commercial paper continues at $2\frac{1}{4}$ to 4 per cent., collateral loans, 4 to 5 per cent., and cattle loans $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent.

Kansas City.—The general banking business in this district is fairly active, with deposits continuing heavy. Rates remain at 5 to 6 per cent.

Columbus, Ga.—Money, while ample for ordinary requirements, seems to be held closely, with the attitude of banks cautious and conservative. Difficulty is being encountered in financing farming operations, except with the more stable operators, which normally should tend to decrease yields.

In Western Sections

Chicago.—Money continues steady in the local market, with demand for loans light, although deposits are well maintained or increasing. Occasional choice names of commercial paper are going at $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., but the bulk of it is passing at $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 2½ per cent. Counter loans are fairly steady at 4 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., while brokers' loans are mostly 4 per cent. Customers' loans on collateral range from 5 to 6 per cent., with shading.

Cincinnati.—The local money market is listless, with rates of savings deposits officially reduced from 4 to 3 per cent., as of May 1, 1931. There is little activity in the call loan division, and rates to brokers are unchanged, varying from 4 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Commercial transactions are on a basis of $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent. for the usual accommodations. Municipal bonds of high grade are in active demand.

Cleveland.—The demand for commercial loans during the week was restricted to medium and small-sized transactions, and interest rates were easy. The Federal Reserve bank reported holdings of discounted bills \$5,000,000 larger and holdings of government securities \$16,000,000 smaller than the total of the previous week. A fairly even condition prevailed in most of the other items reported.

COLLECTION CONDITIONS

In Eastern Districts

Boston.—New England department stores report 41.7 per cent. of the accounts outstanding at the first of March collected during that month. This was the same percentage as in March, 1930. General collections show an improvement over those of a week ago.

Hartford.—There has been almost no improvement in local collections which continue slow, except in a few branches of the retail trade.

Providence.—Reports received during the current week show that general collections are slow, although there has been an improvement in some branches of the retail trade.

Philadelphia.—Money in this district continues cheap and plentiful, with rates hovering around the low of the year. Borrowing is light, being accentuated by the usual season-

able downward trend in the demand from commercial borrowers. Brokers' loans again have decreased, with call money unchanged at 4 per cent.

Pittsburgh.—Collections in this district continue to average slow and uneven, although a few jobbers report that there was a slight improvement in some lines.

Newark.—The improvement in the general collection situation has been so slight that the average is not better than slow.

Buffalo.—Local collections have shown no improvement, credits being curtailed in many directions. The better class of accounts are reported as fair to good, while others are slow.

In South and Southwest

St. Louis.—Unevenness marks the local collection situation in both the wholesale and retail trades. There is an increasing number of complaints of backward accounts and actual losses are frequent.

Kansas City.—Local collections are slow, but they are somewhat better than they were a week ago, except with houses selling on the instalment plan.

Baltimore.—The collection situation has not fluctuated materially since early in April. There was a noticeable improvement about a month ago, and this betterment since has been maintained.

Jacksonville.—Although collections in this district continue slow, they are a little better than they were at this time a year ago.

Dallas.—Although collections are by no means normal. They have improved during the past few weeks, particularly in the retail trade.

Columbus, Ga.—Although the reports received during the last two weeks show a more cheerful trend, it seems that in the majority of trades considerable slowness in collections continues.

New Orleans.—Local collections are spasmodic, showing up fairly well one week, and dropping back to a new low level the week following.

In Western Districts

Chicago.—In some branches, collections have shown a slight improvement over last week's condition, but still are slow and under pressure in some quarters.

Cleveland.—Collections in this district have not shown any important improvement during the past week, and there is a great deal of unfavorable comment touching the matter of liquidations.

Cincinnati.—General collections average slow, with the most frequent complaints regarding tardiness coming from instalment accounts.

Detroit.—There has been a seasonal betterment in local collections, but the general average still is not much above slow.

Twin Cities (St. Paul-Minneapolis).—Collections in this district continue to show considerable variation, being slow in some sections and fair in others, with the latter predominating.

Omaha.—Local collections continue slow, but the average is a little above that a week ago, with an improving trend noted.

Oklahoma City.—Local collections continue generally slow, although there has been a little improvement in some branches of the retail trade.

Denver.—Collections have shown no particular improvement during the week, and in the manufacturing and wholesale lines the situation is classed as fair to slow.

Los Angeles.—Collections in the city are a little better than they were a week ago, but there continues to be considerable tardiness in country districts.

Course of International Money Markets

Acceptance and Rediscount Rates Reduced—
Gold Imports Continue

MONETARY indications again pointed toward lower charges for accommodation, largely under the stimulus of the Federal Reserve policy of reduced rates for the purpose of stimulating business recovery and preventing further gold imports. This policy was accentuated Wednesday when the New York reserve institution instituted a general cut in yield rates of bankers' bills by lowering its bill buying rates. The new buying rate of the Federal Reserve bank is 1½ per cent. for bills up to thirty days' maturity; 1¼ per cent. for bills of thirty-one to ninety days, and 1½ per cent. for ninety-one to 120-day maturities. Previous rates were 1¼ per cent. for paper up to forty-five days' dating and 1½ per cent. for long dates. The reductions by dealers which were immediately instituted brought levels to the lowest in the history of the American acceptance market. The new rates established are 1¼ bid and 1½ asked for thirty to ninety-day bills, and 1½ bid and 1¾ asked for longer dates.

Indications were given at the same time that the movement toward lower rates is to be made nation-wide, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston reducing its rediscount rate to 2 per cent., while the Philadelphia bank lowered its rate to 3 per cent. The New York bank reduced its rate on Thursday from 2 to 1½ per cent. This rate, it is interesting to note, is not only the lowest ever employed by this bank but is also the lowest used by any central bank for some years.

Call money on the New York Stock Exchange ruled at 1½ per cent. all week, while in most sessions, funds overflowed into the street market where transactions were reported at 1 per cent., or a concession of ½ per cent. from the official rate. Time loans were unchanged at a range of 1½ to 1¾ per cent. for early maturities to 2 to 2½ per cent. for longest accommodation. Commercial paper was again 2¼ to 2½ per cent. for best names and 2½ to 2¾ per cent. for others.

Daily closing quotations of foreign exchange (bankers' bills) in the New York market follow:

| | Sat | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Sterling, checks... | 4.86½ | 4.86½ | 4.86½ | 4.86½ | 4.86½ | 4.86½ |
| Sterling, cables... | 4.86½ | 4.86½ | 4.86½ | 4.86½ | 4.86½ | 4.86½ |
| Paris, checks... | 3.90½ | 3.90½ | 3.90½ | 3.90½ | 3.90½ | 3.90½ |
| Paris, cables... | 3.90½ | 3.90½ | 3.90½ | 3.90½ | 3.90½ | 3.90½ |
| Berlin, checks... | 23.79½ | 23.79½ | 23.79½ | 23.80½ | 23.81½ | 23.81½ |
| Berlin, cables... | 23.81½ | 23.81½ | 23.81½ | 23.82½ | 23.82½ | 23.81½ |
| Antwerp, checks... | 13.89½ | 13.89½ | 13.89½ | 13.89½ | 13.90 | 13.90 |
| Antwerp, cables... | 13.91 | 13.91 | 13.90½ | 13.91 | 13.91 | 13.90½ |
| Liège, checks... | 5.23½ | 5.23½ | 5.23½ | 5.23½ | 5.23½ | 5.23½ |
| Liège, cables... | 5.23½ | 5.23½ | 5.23½ | 5.23½ | 5.23½ | 5.23½ |
| Swiss, checks... | 19.25½ | 19.25½ | 19.25½ | 19.26½ | 19.27 | 19.27 |
| Swiss, cables... | 19.26½ | 19.26½ | 19.26½ | 19.26½ | 19.27½ | 19.27½ |
| Gulden, checks... | 40.18½ | 40.17 | 40.17 | 40.16 | 40.15½ | 40.15½ |
| Gulden, cables... | 40.20½ | 40.19½ | 40.18½ | 40.17½ | 40.18½ | 40.19½ |
| Pesetas, checks... | 10.31 | 10.45½ | 10.53½ | 10.39½ | 10.31 | 10.28 |
| Pesetas, cables... | 10.31½ | 10.46 | 10.54 | 10.40 | 10.32 | 10.29 |
| Denmark, checks... | 26.77½ | 26.77 | 26.77 | 26.77 | 26.77½ | 26.77½ |
| Denmark, cables... | 26.77½ | 26.77½ | 26.77½ | 26.77½ | 26.78½ | 26.78½ |
| Sweden, checks... | 26.80 | 26.80 | 26.80 | 26.77½ | 26.81½ | 26.80½ |
| Sweden, cables... | 26.80½ | 26.80½ | 26.80½ | 26.78 | 26.82½ | 26.81½ |
| Norway, checks... | 26.77½ | 26.77 | 26.77 | 26.77 | 26.77½ | 26.77½ |
| Norway, cables... | 26.77½ | 26.77½ | 26.77½ | 26.77½ | 26.78½ | 26.78 |
| Greece, checks... | 1.29½ | 1.29½ | 1.29½ | 1.29½ | 1.29½ | 1.29½ |
| Greece, cables... | 1.29½ | 1.29½ | 1.29½ | 1.29½ | 1.29½ | 1.29½ |
| Portugal, checks... | 4.51 | 4.51 | 4.51 | 4.51 | 4.51 | 4.51 |
| Portugal, cables... | 4.52 | 4.52 | 4.52 | 4.52 | 4.52 | 4.52 |
| Australia, checks... | 3.69½ | 3.69½ | 3.69½ | 3.69½ | 3.69½ | 3.69½ |
| Australia, cables... | 3.70½ | 3.70½ | 3.70½ | 3.70½ | 3.70½ | 3.70½ |
| Montreal, demand... | 99.95 | 99.93 | 99.93 | 99.92 | 99.94 | 99.96 |
| Argentina, demand... | 32.30 | 32.20 | 31.75 | 31.45 | 31.20 | 31.32 |
| Brazil, demand... | 7.20 | 6.95 | 7.00 | 6.95 | 6.85 | 6.45 |
| Chili, demand... | 12.10 | 12.10 | 12.10 | 12.10 | 12.03 | 12.07 |
| Uruguay, demand... | 65.75 | 65.50 | 64.50 | 63.50 | 63.25 | 63.75 |

The price course in this market of French francs proved the most interesting feature of the foreign exchange market, owing to the possibility that more gold shipments from France may result from the low level now prevailing. Arrivals of the metal from Paris last week totaled \$19,000,000, and it appears that every effort will be made by American authorities to deflect the flow to the British or German markets, where the gold can be used to much greater advantage than in the United States, where the supply is already too great. Francs remained close to the gold shipment point all week. Indeed, the level was similar to that at which the heavy gold movement was arranged, but freight rates, reduced in order to make the shipments possible, were again

brought back to their former levels, and it is now a question whether the metal can be transferred profitably even at present quotations for the franc.

Strength in Sterling Reflects Gold Gains

Of interest in this connection was the further gain in gold by the Bank of England, which secured all metal offered on the London auction market. Until a short time ago France took most of the London auction offerings, but the cross rate between France and England now indicates that a return flow of gold from Paris to London may follow. Lower rates for short-term money in this market induced a further flow of funds to Britain this week, and sterling was strong in most sessions of the market. The currency reached a new high for the current year after the cuts in bill rates were announced Wednesday.

Pesetas fluctuated idly, without moving markedly in either direction. Marks were up a little, while other Europeans were flat. Argentine and Uruguayan pesos were off slightly, but other Latin-Americans were substantially unchanged.

Bank Clearings Again Reduced

BANK clearings continue much below those of last year, the total this week for leading cities in the United States, of \$9,591,910,000 is 20.4 per cent. under that of a year ago. At New York City, clearings of \$6,944,911,000 disclose a decline of 20.2 per cent., while the aggregate at centers outside of New York of \$2,646,999,000 is 20.4 per cent. smaller. At practically every city reporting, the losses are substantial. They are particularly heavy at some of the Western and Southern centers. At some points the decline is again rather small, among them Cincinnati, Minneapolis, Omaha, New Orleans and Atlanta.

Bank clearings for the week, and average daily bank clearings for the last four months, are compared herewith:

| | Week May 7, 1931 | Week May 8, 1930 | Per Cent. | Week May 9, 1929 |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Boston | \$436,000,000 | \$522,000,000 | -16.5 | \$468,000,000 |
| Philadelphia | 420,000,000 | 568,000,000 | -26.1 | 600,000,000 |
| Baltimore | 87,733,000 | 101,842,000 | -38.5 | 109,613,000 |
| Pittsburgh | 162,630,000 | 191,343,000 | -15.0 | 186,013,000 |
| Buffalo | 40,111,000 | 61,784,000 | -35.0 | 63,155,000 |
| Chicago | 471,704,000 | 648,658,000 | -26.7 | 643,616,000 |
| Detroit | 135,938,000 | 183,662,000 | -26.0 | 209,650,000 |
| Cleveland | 107,187,000 | 121,944,000 | -12.1 | 140,522,000 |
| Cincinnati | 61,269,000 | 63,827,000 | -4.0 | 72,760,000 |
| St. Louis | 109,600,000 | 122,900,000 | -10.8 | 133,000,000 |
| Kansas City | 85,600,000 | 122,700,000 | -27.0 | 135,200,000 |
| Omaha | 39,342,000 | 43,531,000 | -9.6 | 47,475,000 |
| Minneapolis | 85,384,000 | 90,531,000 | -5.7 | 93,927,000 |
| Richmond | 35,739,000 | 46,013,000 | -22.3 | 39,728,000 |
| Atlanta | 40,428,000 | 46,117,000 | -12.3 | 54,012,000 |
| Louisville | 22,957,000 | 35,716,000 | -35.8 | 35,927,000 |
| New Orleans | 44,285,000 | 49,100,000 | -9.8 | 47,875,000 |
| Dallas | 37,568,000 | 39,115,000 | -39.6 | 48,128,000 |
| San Francisco | 154,200,000 | 211,200,000 | -27.0 | 199,500,000 |
| Portland | 33,199,000 | 37,970,000 | -12.5 | 38,356,000 |
| Seattle | 33,125,000 | 42,168,000 | -21.4 | 49,181,000 |
| Total | \$2,646,999,000 | \$3,345,121,000 | -20.9 | \$3,405,633,000 |
| New York | 6,944,911,000 | 8,708,000,000 | -20.2 | 8,021,000,000 |
| Total All | \$9,591,910,000 | \$12,053,121,000 | -20.4 | \$11,426,633,000 |
| Average daily: | | | | |
| May to date | \$1,598,652,000 | \$2,059,856,000 | -22.4 | \$2,079,538,000 |
| April | 1,457,562,000 | 1,859,118,000 | -21.6 | 1,926,145,000 |
| March | 1,409,172,000 | 1,832,284,000 | -23.1 | 2,229,360,000 |
| February | 1,380,211,000 | 1,746,887,000 | -20.5 | 2,272,246,000 |
| January | 1,414,652,000 | 1,796,989,000 | -21.3 | 2,327,594,000 |

Offerings of New Securities Smaller

THE volume of new security offerings for the month of April showed a substantial decline from the total for March and from that of April, 1930, according to a compilation by *The Journal of Commerce*. During the latter half of the month, in response to declining demand and the liquidation of second grade issues, new offerings were sharply curtailed. During the first half of the month new flotations were extremely heavy, particularly in the public utility field.

The total volume of new offerings was \$513,982,052. This compared with the \$870,005,532 aggregate for the same month of 1930 and with the total of \$751,920,609 for March.

Current Status of Rubber Industry

Reported by Dun Correspondents

THE rubber goods trade is in a little better condition than it was four months ago. In spite of the small gain in sales since the first of the year, however, and the uneven increase in production schedules, volume still is behind the 1930 record for the four-month period.

Most branches of the industry are working their plants only three or four days a week, with the least activity noted in footwear, clothing and mechanical goods. Tire production has increased of late, and manufacturers of sport rubber goods are working on wider schedules, in some instances. Makers of pharmaceutical supplies have just closed a fair season.

Raw material quotations remain low, but there have been no important reductions in the prices of tires, footwear or mechanical goods since January. The cost of finished merchandise comprises largely labor and overhead, which have shown almost no variation. As a whole, the rubber industry seems to be holding its own, with prospects for the Summer regarded as favorable for a slight improvement in general operations and sales.

BOSTON.—Manufacturers of rubber footwear report sales, in most instances, a little below last year's total. Future orders are running about the same, although, in a few cases, they are ahead of the 1930 volume. During the past two weeks, there has been an increase in small orders.

There was a 5 per cent. reduction in footwear prices the first of the year, and it is expected that there also will be a reduction in the prices of canvas lines. Stocks in retailers' hands are small, and it is expected that there will be an increase in sales in the Fall. Collections are fair, being about the same as they were at this time a year ago.

PROVIDENCE.—There has been little change in volume of business handled in this line in recent weeks, and no fluctuations in price trends of any consequence. There is some activity in certain seasonable merchandise, including golf balls, plants manufacturing these products being operated on a three-shift basis. In the insulated wire line, the average is three or four days a week. The plants manufacturing rubber shoes are operating on a much restricted working schedule, the manufacturing season for these lines being nearly over.

In Woonsocket, one large plant has been closed entirely. The average, on the whole, in the line of general rubber goods appears to be between three and four days a week, with price fluctuations of only a few cents. Manufacturers of rubber goods identified with the druggist sundry specialties line have just passed the seasonable demand, and in this line operations appear to be on a four and five-day-a-week basis. Demand is falling off somewhat, which is usual at this season of the year.

NEW HAVEN.—In this city and the Naugatuck Valley, rubber goods are manufactured in large quantities and in numerous varieties. On account of crude rubber reaching 6c. a pound, the lowest price in the history of the industry, the depression is being keenly felt in many lines. Until the large supply of crude rubber, which has accumulated in the large rubber centers, will have been sold, the prices of finished rubber goods will continue to decrease.

On a falling market, buyers are reluctant to place orders of any considerable size. The volume of rubber goods produced in the major lines the past four months, as compared with that of the previous four months, is about 15 per cent. less. All types of rubber goods, including tires, tubes, boots, shoes, mechanical goods, sundries and specialties are being sold at the lowest prices in history.

ST. LOUIS.—Rubber clothing manufacturers in this district are in low production. The adverse factors during the past twelve months have been the long drought, the mild open Winter, and the generally depressed business conditions, resulting in extremely conservative purchasing by both jobbers and retailers.

The sale of automobile tires and tubes has been active, as

should be expected at this season. Prices are low, and a good many retail dealers have been forced out of business on account of the small profit margin and the tendency of manufacturers to control consumer distribution. Two large Eastern factories recently completed elaborate stations in prominent locations for the retail sale of their products.

The movement of mechanical rubber goods is about in line with general business, which is only fair. Prices are low and no particular changes are anticipated in this direction during the balance of the Spring.

CINCINNATI.—The volume of mechanical rubber goods manufactured in this district during the first quarter of the current year compared favorably with that for the same quarter last year, despite general restraint in most industrial channels. However, prices receded to lower levels and profit margins were correspondingly smaller. Crude rubber sheets moved downward in price to a 6c. basis, as against 8½c. in January, 1931, and 9½c. in December last. Notwithstanding reduced quotations of raw materials, the principal cost represented in finished merchandise comprises labor and overhead expense, and wide variations in selling prices are not frequent in this line.

In the retail trade, conditions were less favorable. Winter months were too mild and open to induce a free movement of rubber footwear, raincoats and rubber clothing. However, Spring trade opened with more promise and sales in April showed a decided pick-up resulting from considerable rainfall.

CLEVELAND.—Considerable unevenness has characterized the rubber goods and rubber tire industries since the beginning of the year. Practically all branches, including manufacturing, jobbing, retailing and traffic in used tires is affected by the general backward condition of trade. The percentage of employment in this industry compared to normal is from 3 to 25 per cent. below the average level. Also, the percentage of expansion for seasonable trade is not so large as usual. Some dealers are buying in small quantities, to take care of early requirements, but others have ordered in larger volume, with stipulation that quick shipments be made, as needed, over a future specified time.

Raw material quotations remain low, but most of the supply purchased at former high prices has been worked into finished products. The stock of available raw supply of rubber is said to be ample, and the quantity on the market is in excess of actual requirements. Hard rubber going into other lines of industry presents a more steady situation, the supply keeping closer to normal and prices are experiencing less fluctuation. Authorities are quite well agreed that the market will suffer no severe shock during the balance of the season but, on the other hand, no important improvement is anticipated.

DETROIT.—Unfavorable aspects have marked this, as well as other lines, as a result of the prevailing economic state of commercial affairs. No rubber goods of consequence, excepting certain automobile tires, are manufactured here, and this is not a rubber center, but the general volume of business through retail distribution has fallen off and is below normal. Tires have been in only fair demand, due to restricted automobile construction, and distribution to users also has fallen off.

Surgical goods have maintained a fair level. Mechanical rubber goods have shown a drop in volume of sales, owing to curtailed factory production. Rubber footwear distribution has been below normal, owing to dry weather conditions now and a mild open Winter. Some interest is being shown in sport rubber goods, and shoes, but this is of a regular seasonal nature. Prices show unusual changes, and collections are slow.

AKRON.—Following a year of reduced sales, accompanied by heavy inventory losses, the first quarter of 1931 has shown only a gradual improvement in the rubber industry, as a

(Continued on page 15)

Encouraging Progress in Leather Movement

By Frank O. Pratt

IRRESPECTIVE of the late course of the securities market, which had the natural effect of holding up new business, particularly in raw hides, basic conditions in leather and shoes have continued encouraging. The shoe business has been reported as not at all bad. In fact, it is said to have ranged generally from good to improved since the end of March, following the Easter buying. Leather trading has been delayed somewhat since the middle of March, but there are indications of an improvement in the offing, one encouraging sign being the reports of a big sole tanner reopening tanneries.

Sole leather has remained quiet for a week or more, particularly new business; but it is reported that there are steady withdrawals into consumption, representing deliveries on back orders. This applies to backs and bends as well as to cut stock. Large producers seem to have no complaint regarding business in finders' leathers, as sales to this class of buyers since the opening of the year have exceeded those of the same period of a year ago. This is true not only of volume but of the dollar value as well. There continues to be a tendency on the part of leather sellers to hold for price, regardless of outside pressure, which is a reassuring indication of confidence in the current trend.

In upper leather, patent continues to be the leader by far in sales, and this is well borne out by March government statistics. Reports through April were very encouraging in this line, consumption and production showing an expansion. In addition to shoe patent, the output for leather goods work has continued large. A feature reported is that colored patent, principally dark browns, reds and blues, so popular for bag work, has extended even to shoes, and some big tanning-shoe manufacturers, who are placing these on the market, report that they are meeting with considerable success.

In calf, New England reports trade in men's weights relatively better than in women's substances, and this condition is being reflected in the raw skin markets. Some of the Western tanners have been reported as going strong; but, generally, increased cutting of patent takes away from calf and kid, and the latter has been selling in lessened quantities. Exports of brown kid are fair. In side leathers, sport elk continues to find the chief favor.

Patent Leather Consumption Gains

The preliminary report of the Hide and Leather Division of the Department of Commerce, concerning holdings of upper leathers, stock in process and production, last month, bears out fully former statements relating to leather trading, particularly the expanded production and decidedly increased consumption of patent leather. There also was an increase in side upper in March, likewise of calf. It is assumed that government reports for April will show a falling off in the totals of leather going into consumption, as the trade has noted quiet business since the middle of March; that is, following the buying of leather for Easter requirements. It is expected, however, that this will not apply to patent.

At the tanners' convention in New York this week, leather producers were unanimous in stating that shoe conditions are surprisingly satisfactory and encouraging, taking the general business situation into consideration. For, considerable slackening had been anticipated following the Easter buying. These improved conditions, however, are not reported from every section, but from most of the shoe-manufacturing centers, including the biggest producers. New England advices reveal that the betterment in footwear has been maintained. Some feel that shoes, along with textiles, which also are reported to be showing an improvement, may help New England to repeat history by leading the way for general industrial betterment. This was the case during some former periods of depression, with 1921 cited as a particular instance.

Thus far, better cutting in factories has not been reflected in general leather buying, since the slowing down of former

activity around the middle of March; but, in the opinion of most trade members, larger shoe production over the slackness of the closing months of last year must sooner or later be asserted in the renewal of leather buying. It may be, of course, that the increased use of patent leather and larger cutting of cloth fabrics for women's shoes hindered the movement of other lines of upper. So far as government figures for March are concerned, both side upper and calf leathers showed heavier deliveries, although not up to the proportionate increase enjoyed by patent leather. Again, there has been a big quantity of patent consumed for bag work.

Shoe Trade Gaining Ground

General reports regarding business, in most sections, continue to show surprisingly satisfactory conditions. The opinion keeps gaining ground that, irrespective of the recent course of the securities market, shoe conditions and prospects for leather are far from being in the unfavorable state of some other industrial lines. There has been, of course, the talk of the possibility of the declines in the stock market carrying their influence later to footwear. From what can be learned, however, shoes now are on a sounder basis than many lines, and distribution is more widespread.

The retailer, with reduced holdings on his shelves and a demand for his merchandise, is not affected in putting in a stock as would be a big buyer negotiating for any sizable line of a given commodity. Production toward the close of the year ran down to abnormally low proportions, and with distributors short of supplies, larger purchasing by the public brought about the inevitable increased buying by dealers. New England reports continue to note that factories in that section are doing well, although the improvement is not uniform. Reports emanating from the biggest manufacturers in New York State and the Middle West show that production is running larger, up to 80 to 85 per cent. of capacity, in some instances.

Clearance Business in Hides

The decline in domestic packer hides reached a point this week where sizable clearance business was consummated, around 200,000 hides being taken off packers' hands. The hides moved were March-April salting, chiefly the latter, and prices were carried down to 8c. for native, butt branded and heavy Texas steers, 7½c. for Colorados and light native cows, and 7c. for branded cows. These rates are a full 1c down from former nominal quotations, but the trading prices were discounted by a large outside packer selling his May production ahead at ½c. better than the April rates on the clearance business in big packers.

Domestic Statistical Position Improved

Packers have appreciably bettered their statistical position, but buyers are disinclined to pay any advances for May hides beyond what would be warranted for the better quality. A retarding influence is the fact that the situation in Europe is reported weaker. Buyers there are giving no support to River Plate frigorificos, which are in larger supply and show weakness. Domestic stocks of steers, however, are much depleted, and any further demand may have to be satisfied from the South American end. New York packers generally cleaned out their April production of steers at the Chicago levels.

Country Hides Less Active

Trading in country hides has lessened, but most reports indicate that this resulted more from a reduction of offerings, because of decreased supplies, than from other causes. Extremes continue generally around 7½c., while buffs repeatedly sell at 6c.

Calfskins hold very well in price. Chicago city's sold at last prices on split-weights, 12c. for the 8 to 10 and 15½c. for 10 to 15 pounds, and trading was reported in regular point packers at 16c. New York city 7 to 12-pound weights are kept tightly sold up, and are steady to firm at \$1.65 to \$1.75 for 7 to 9's and \$2.55 to \$2.65 for 9 to 12's.

Significant Features of Textile Markets

Primary Movement of Merchandise Keeping Up Well— Progress in Fall Trade

ALTHOUGH the movement of merchandise from mills to distributors and cutters continues very full on past orders, immediate buying in dry goods markets has remained quiet. Retailers are duplicating orders in small lots, as a rule, and are showing no disposition to bid higher for goods wanted, usually preferring to substitute any available lower-priced lines. The general trend of prices has continued downward in cotton goods, silks, rayons, and to a lesser extent, in wool goods. Production is being curtailed to some extent, and more largely through individual action than has been the case in recent months.

Silk Manufacturers Operating Closely

A number of silk manufacturers have been declining orders that promised no profit, and have been confining their operations as closely as possible to goods that move freely without loss. Some of the rayon companies are showing more discretion in selling odd lots at low prices, and in some instances have been curtailing their output. Several cotton mills have lessened their operations until the demand becomes broader and more profitable. On the other hand, there has been a tendency to offer to accept contracts at lower prices when deliveries are obtainable through the Summer months.

Printed wash goods and printed goods generally continue to move more freely than other lines, but lower prices have been quoted in the effort to stimulate late orders and to clean up slow-selling styles. In knit goods, prices were reduced on Fall underwear and full-fashioned hosiery by some of the larger producers, and this policy has been followed quite widely.

Easing in Cotton Goods Prices

Print cloth prices eased an additional $\frac{1}{8}$ c. and struck a low point at $4\frac{1}{8}$ c. for 38-inch 64x60s, from which a recovery of $\frac{1}{8}$ c. a yard followed a rise in cotton. New York spot cotton fell to the lowest price for the current crop, and this decline, with the uncertainty in stock markets, caused a general weakness in several lines of cottons that was manifested chiefly by concessions in terms or longer discounts. Bleached cottons of the unbranded types yielded $\frac{1}{8}$ c. a yard, and further concessions were heard of on small sales of flannels and towels. Expectations of a revision of percale prices were general throughout the trade at the middle of the week.

Fall trade on men's suitings and overcoatings has been making fair progress, and several mills having less than 300 looms are comfortably supplied with business for the next two or three months. There has been a good spot demand for women's coatings of the sport type and for flannels for men's trousers. Several of the catalog houses and chain stores have bought staple dress goods for Fall in moderate quantities. In some quarters of the market, selling agents state that the Fall business in hand is 20 per cent. above last year's, in yardage.

Raw Silk at Lowest Level

The silk trade has continued quite irregular, influenced by the dropping of raw silk prices to the lowest point on record, and by the pressure of small concerns to sell out limited stocks of Spring goods. Some of the rayon fabrics have been reduced in price for Fall delivery.

Reports from knit goods centers tell of much sharper competition for Fall business, which has led to a substantial price reduction on heavyweight goods and to further concessions by the largest producers of full-fashioned hosiery. Business in light sweaters for sports wear and in bathing suits for spot delivery has been more active in second hands.

Notes of Textile Markets

Print cloth sales last week were below the ratio of production, and sheeting stocks have been increasing. One of the largest producers of sheets and pillowcases announced a plan for curtailing production until trade shows some improvement.

Stocks of burlap at Calcutta declined about 12,500,000 yards in April, and were reported at the end of April at about 236,888,000 yards. This stock reduction is chiefly a result of shorter working hours, effective since March 1.

Dress linens have been moving in good volume, and importers state that sales are fully 40 per cent. above a year ago. Reports from Belfast state that mills are becoming more active, and are devoting considerable time to the production of novelties.

Cotton yarns have been selling in moderate quantities to weavers, the plush trade having bought quite freely. Combed yarns continue weak.

Hosiery price reductions on full fashioned goods, range from 50c. on regular and high twist tram hosiery, to 75c. to \$1 on grenadine, the largest reduction being a cut of \$2 in the price of a four thread, 45 gauge stocking, with lace clockwork now \$9 a dozen.

Lighter profits since the first of the year have been reported by some rayon manufacturing plants, reflecting the very sharp competition that is going on for a restricted volume of business.

Fabric-finishing plants have found orders more difficult to book, but there has been some quickening in requests for service on Fall merchandise.

Raw Silk Imports Decline Sharply

Raw silk imports for April amounted to 29,446 bales, being a decrease from 57,391 bales in March and 48,827 bales in February. Deliveries to mills in April were the lowest of the present year, reaching only 41,356 bales, as against 55,383 bales in March and 54,242 bales in February. The amount of silk in storage in this country, in public warehouses, was 35,497 bales or about 12,000 bales less than at the end of the previous months.

While these declines have been very sharp for the month, the imports of raw silk into the United States during the first four months of the current year were 12.9 per cent. higher than for the corresponding period of last year, according to the Silk Association of America. The amount of Japan raw silk in transit at the end of the month, was 24,800 bales.

At Kobe, Japan, during the week, the lowest yen prices yet quoted on Japan silk was reported, bringing the parity in this market down about 10c. a pound below the previous low price reported last October. While mills are curtailing, it is difficult to induce manufacturers to buy at the low figures, although reports are current that some few strong houses have made liberal commitments for future delivery.

Wool Buying Somewhat Lighter

THE Boston wool market is quiet at present, compared with the extreme activity at the end of March. Most of the mills are purchasing only in small quantities. This is the between-season period for purchasing until the production of Fall goods will have commenced. The heavy buying during the first quarter depleted considerably the stocks of the more desirable wool in the hands of the Boston dealers.

Wool consumption for March in the New England States amounted to 22,826,027 pounds, as compared with 19,464,223 pounds for March, 1930. Current consumption, however, is slightly below the 1930 figures, receipts of wool in Boston for the year to date totaling 53,025,500 pounds, as compared with 60,317,900 pounds for the corresponding period of 1930.

Somewhat more interest is being displayed in Jersey cloth yarns, but new orders for knitting yarn are light. Deliveries on orders already placed have been fairly active. More orders are being received for weaving yarns for men's and women's wear, and prices on all lines are steady.

Leading Grain Closes Lower

Wheat Prices Break at Mid-Week, but Oats Continue Firm and Rye Strong

THE unbroken six-day advance in wheat prices ended Tuesday on the Chicago Board of Trade. Thereafter, the trend of grains seasawed sharply. Much needed rains in the Canadian Northwest proved the deciding factor, as foreign news was mixed with the bullish element predominating.

Wheat began the week with an extreme gain of $\frac{3}{4}$ c. on the unsupported deliveries, sold $\frac{3}{4}$ c. to 1 c. lower the next day, rallied fractionally Wednesday and lost around $1\frac{1}{2}$ c. for the new crop on Thursday. Traders were inclined to disregard the earlier reports of showers in Canada, but surrendered to the weather reports toward the end of the week. Unexpectedly heavy Russian shipments of 1,040,000 bushels aided the late decline.

There was good buying for export on the dip. Private advices also indicated that Germany and France were expected to enter the market more heavily for foreign wheat. Russian seeding was reported delayed by bad weather. Winter wheat reports from the Southwest forecast a bumper crop.

Corn swung with wheat, advancing sharply on Monday and Wednesday. The gain at mid-week ranged from 1c. to $2\frac{1}{2}$ c., and held to narrower losses. Strength in corn was due largely to an oversold condition, as planting had made good progress and the rains in the belt were decidedly beneficial. Shipping demand was light.

Oats held fairly firm within a fractional range, with cash sales light. Although swinging with the market, rye showed a stronger undertone than in some time, due chiefly to unfavorable crop reports from North Dakota and other Northwestern growing centers.

The United States visible supply of grains for the week, in bushels, was: Wheat, 195,691,000, off 807,000; corn, 18,

270,000, off 508,000; oats, 13,152,000, off 685,000; rye, 10,273,000, off 808,000; and barley, 5,602,000, off 494,000.

Daily closing quotations of wheat options in the Chicago market follow:

| | Sat. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| May | 84 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 83 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 84 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 84 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 84 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 83 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| July | 63 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 64 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 63 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 63 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 61 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 62 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| September | 63 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 63 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 62 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 63 | 61 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 62 $\frac{3}{4}$ |

Daily closing quotations of corn options in the Chicago market follow:

| | Sat. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| May | 55 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 56 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 56 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 57 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| July | 57 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 58 | 60 | 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| September | 57 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 58 | 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

Daily closing quotations of oats options in the Chicago market follow:

| | Sat. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| May | 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 27 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 28 | 28 |
| July | 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 27 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 27 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 28 | 28 |
| September | 27 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 28 | 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ |

Daily closing quotations of rye options in the Chicago market follow:

| | Sat. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| May | 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 35 | 36 |
| July | 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 37 | 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| September | 37 | 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 38 | 39 | 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 39 |

The grain movement each day is given in the following table, with the week's total, and comparative figures for last year:

| | Wheat | | Flour, | Corn | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Western Receipts | Atlantic Exports | Atlantic Exports | Western Receipts | Atlantic Exports |
| Friday | 1,174,000 | 257,000 | 5,000 | 440,000 | ..... |
| Saturday | 1,039,000 | 260,000 | 30,000 | 548,000 | ..... |
| Monday | 1,909,000 | 266,000 | 13,000 | 607,000 | ..... |
| Tuesday | 832,000 | 499,000 | 6,000 | 457,000 | ..... |
| Wednesday | 807,000 | 498,000 | 15,000 | 417,000 | ..... |
| Thursday | 805,000 | 657,000 | 13,000 | 262,000 | ..... |
| Total | 6,566,000 | 2,386,000 | 82,000 | 2,731,000 | ..... |
| Last year..... | 3,166,000 | 2,029,000 | 87,000 | 3,473,000 | 1,000 |

Weakness in Steel Feature of Week

Canadian Pacific Dividend Cut—Coppers Weak—Woolworth Responds to Active Demand

WITH the exception of a few of the more volatile issues, stocks showed little variation in prices this week. Trading proceeded at an unusually low level of activity, most full sessions resulting in aggregate volumes of about 1,500,000 shares. The placidity of the stock market, both from the trading and the price standpoints, was accepted with a good deal of relief in the financial community.

Of peculiar interest was the death over the week-end of George F. Baker, chairman of the First National Bank, and for many years one of the most important financial figures in the United States. Although a little uncertainty appeared Monday in such stocks as American Can and National Biscuit, with which Mr. Baker had been prominently identified, this was soon overcome and the market accepted the incident with great calmness.

Group movements predominated in most succeeding sessions, while most of the market advanced Thursday in anticipation of a reduction of the New York Reserve rediscount rate. One notable reflection of the severity of the reaction of recent weeks was the arrangement Thursday of a Stock Exchange seat sale at \$235,000, off \$45,000 from the last previous sale.

Among the more prominent incidents was a further decline early in the week in United States Steel, which dropped to 110 $\frac{1}{2}$, or the lowest figure recorded since June, 1924. This recession was attributed chiefly to bear operators who expect a heavy drop in the statement of unfilled orders to be made Friday. The rail group was under pressure, owing to a reduction of the Canadian Pacific dividend to a $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. annual basis, as against the former rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$

per cent. Copper shares fell when the price of the metal went to the lowest figures in 37 years. In contrast to such movements were sustained upswings late in the week in such important issues as Allied Chemical and Woolworth. Woolworth moved to its highest level of the current year on rumors that the foreign holdings of the company might be segregated. Bear operations appeared to lose their vigor Thursday, and even the modest buying in that session lifted stocks to better levels.

Bonds Traded in Narrow Range

Bond prices were somewhat irregular, but the more significant groups of high-grade utilities, rails and governments moved forward in most sessions. These issues were favored owing to the indications of additional monetary ease. Second grade rails developed more uncertainty, but gains were as frequent and as prominent as losses. Industrial bonds were varied. The foreign dollar bond section of the listed market was lower as a whole, with Central European issues again unsettled, Latin-Americans dropped on the almost continuous indications of political instability.

Daily transactions in stocks and bonds on the New York Stock Exchange compare with last year as follows:

| Week Ending May 8, 1931 | Stocks | | Bonds | |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| | This Week | Last Year | This Week | Last Year |
| Saturday | 1,300,000 | 4,867,500 | \$4,635,000 | \$7,719,000 |
| Monday | 1,400,000 | 8,279,300 | 7,600,000 | 12,508,000 |
| Tuesday | 1,600,000 | 4,755,800 | 8,576,000 | 12,866,000 |
| Wednesday | 1,500,000 | 4,295,500 | 8,150,000 | 11,965,000 |
| Thursday | 1,700,000 | 3,756,000 | 11,398,000 | 10,899,000 |
| Friday | 2,300,000 | 3,200,000 | ..... | ..... |
| Total | 9,800,000 | 29,154,100 | \$..... | \$..... |

April Failures Lower—Seasonal Influence Felt

INSOLVENCIES in April were considerably reduced in number and the liabilities were much less than in the earlier months of this year. DUN's Insolvency Index, which shows the ratio of commercial failures in the United States to each 10,000 business firms, was 122.8 for April, as compared with 185.2 for January, a reduction of 33.7 per cent. For April, 1930, the Insolvency Index was 120.5, against 150.2 for January of that year, the decline being 19.7 per cent., while for April, 1922, also a period when business conditions were seriously menaced by the financial situation, DUN's Insolvency Index was 137.3, or 21 per cent. below that of January of that year. The April, 1922, Insolvency Index was 14.5 points higher than that of April, this year. The improvement this year, covering the past four months, is clearly indicated by these comparisons.

The Insolvency Index for January is practically at the high point for the year. For the ten-year period, from 1922 to 1931, inclusive, the Index has ranged from 128.2 in January, 1924, to 185.2, this year. A reduction in the number of insolvencies and the Index each month from January to August or September, is generally shown, while the movement is in the opposite direction after September up to the end of the year.

The increase in mercantile failures last month was wholly among trading concerns. In that division, twelve of the fourteen separate classifications into which it is divided show failures in excess of those of last year.

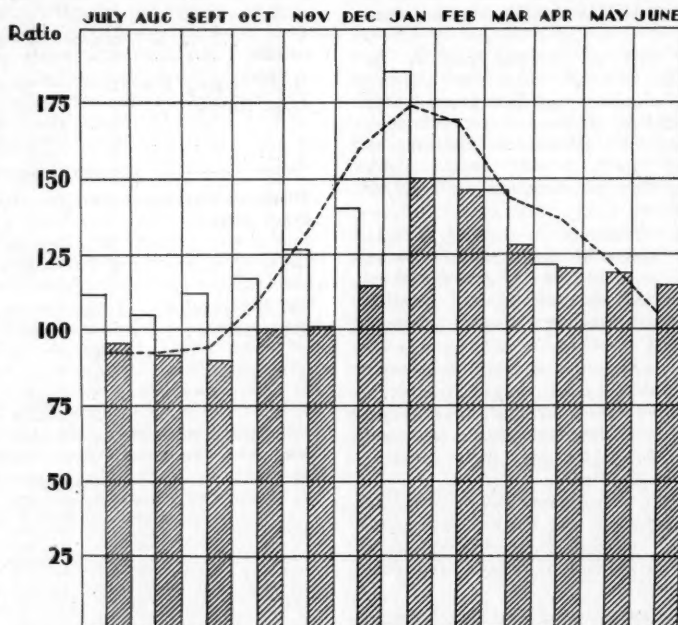
The larger groups include the grocery line; dealers in clothing; in dry goods; general stores; the leather division, including shoes; furniture; drugs; jewelry, and hotels and restaurants. Liabilities were heavier last month for the grocery division; also for clothing; dry goods; furniture; drugs, and jewelry.

Among defaults in manufacturing lines for April this year, the decrease shown for that month, as compared with a year ago, was mainly in the lumber division. Fewer failures also occurred last month for the printing section, but for most of the other classes, for which separate figures are given, there are small gains. The latter includes machinery and tools; the clothing section; iron and foundry division; leather goods, including shoes; woolens; hats, gloves and furs; chemicals, and earthenware and brick.

In part, the heavier indebtedness is due to

some large failures in each of the three classes. Thus, for the month just closed, there were 91 commercial failures where the liabilities in each instance amounted to \$100,000 or more, the total of the latter being \$23,336,402. In April of last year the number was 79, and the indebtedness \$23,478,210. The increase in the number for April of this year is in the trading class, though the liabilities shown are practically the same in all three divisions.

DUN'S INSOLVENCY INDEX



The Insolvency Index is based upon the ratio of failures to each 10,000 concerns in business. The white column shows the Index from July, 1930, to April, 1931. The shaded column shows the Index from July, 1929, to June, 1930. The broken line shows the course of the Index from July, 1921, to June, 1922.

| MANUFACTURERS | Number | | | Liabilities | |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 1931 | 1930 | 1929 | 1931 | 1930 |
| Iron, Foundries and Nails.... | 14 | 10 | 10 | \$1,128,055 | \$296,625 |
| Machinery and Tools..... | 41 | 32 | 24 | 2,456,316 | 924,233 |
| Woolens, Carpets & Knit Goods | 7 | 3 | 3 | 681,600 | 115,110 |
| Cottons, Lace and Hosiery.... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 17,600 | 94,000 |
| Lumber, Building Lines, Etc.... | 75 | 106 | 87 | 4,087,449 | 4,752,980 |
| Clothing and Millinery..... | 50 | 41 | 37 | 651,595 | 1,101,108 |
| Hats, Gloves and Furs..... | 20 | 16 | 9 | 311,153 | 170,029 |
| Chemicals and Drugs..... | 8 | 7 | 14 | 256,700 | 235,103 |
| Paints and Oils..... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 30,000 | 406,412 |
| Printing and Engraving..... | 10 | 15 | 16 | 894,129 | 404,572 |
| Milling and Bakers..... | 38 | 38 | 48 | 878,174 | 343,305 |
| Leather, Shoes and Harness... | 12 | 4 | 13 | 1,120,558 | 51,220 |
| Tobacco, etc..... | 6 | 3 | 4 | 98,428 | 203,830 |
| Glass, Earthenware and Brick. | 5 | 10 | 4 | 150,158 | 576,537 |
| All Other..... | 227 | 246 | 226 | 6,087,189 | 9,991,677 |
| Total Manufacturing..... | 515 | 534 | 499 | \$18,719,144 | \$19,668,738 |

| TRADERS | Number | | | Liabilities | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 1931 | 1930 | 1929 | 1931 | 1930 |
| General Stores..... | 109 | 108 | 88 | \$1,804,640 | \$2,014,194 |
| Groceries, Meat and Fish.... | 320 | 273 | 329 | 4,124,068 | 2,741,979 |
| Hotels and Restaurants..... | 100 | 87 | 99 | 1,212,671 | 3,288,292 |
| Tobacco, etc..... | 81 | 26 | 18 | 153,791 | 247,100 |
| Clothing and Furnishings.... | 250 | 202 | 169 | 3,282,403 | 2,029,367 |
| Dry Goods and Carpets..... | 112 | 103 | 83 | 1,660,829 | 1,512,447 |
| Shoes, Rubbers and Trunks.... | 88 | 54 | 52 | 943,031 | 548,127 |
| Furniture and Crockery..... | 71 | 61 | 68 | 1,645,534 | 1,092,272 |
| Hardware, Stoves and Tools.... | 53 | 63 | 56 | 1,042,969 | 762,549 |
| Chemicals and Drugs..... | 92 | 75 | 75 | 1,261,649 | 684,778 |
| Paints and Oils..... | 6 | 5 | 4 | 86,237 | 106,013 |
| Jewelry and Clocks..... | 61 | 50 | 45 | 1,170,307 | 835,265 |
| Books and Papers..... | 18 | 10 | 15 | 191,620 | 56,025 |
| Hats, Furs and Gloves..... | 13 | 14 | 7 | 149,032 | 287,117 |
| All Other..... | 386 | 369 | 280 | 7,657,330 | 7,221,239 |
| Total Trading..... | 1,710 | 1,590 | 1,388 | \$26,386,171 | \$23,426,764 |
| Brokers & Agents..... | 158 | 164 | 134 | 5,762,820 | 5,963,806 |
| All Commercial..... | 2,383 | 2,198 | 2,021 | \$50,868,135 | \$49,059,308 |

Automobiles and accessories, April, 1930: Manufacturers 12, liabilities \$137,017; trading 81, liabilities \$1,384,639; total of all 144, liabilities \$2,500,748. Manufacturers include all branches of the industry; trading includes all accessories and filling stations, and the total also includes garages, bus lines, etc.

LARGE AND SMALL FAILURES—APRIL

| | Manufacturing | | Trading | | All Commercial | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| | No. | Liabilities. | No. | Liabilities. | No. | Liabilities. |
| Total | 515 | \$18,719,144 | 499 | \$19,668,738 | 2,383 | \$50,868,135 |
| \$100,000 & More | 42 | \$12,032,125 | 42 | \$12,060,935 | 91 | \$23,336,402 |
| Under \$100,000 | 473 | \$6,687,019 | 457 | \$7,607,803 | 2,292 | \$27,531,733 |
| Average | \$44,455 | \$14,138 | \$45,243 | \$16,975 | \$21,351 | \$12,612 |
| 1931.... | 515 | \$18,719,144 | 42 | \$12,032,125 | 473 | \$6,687,019 |
| 1930.... | 534 | \$19,668,738 | 42 | \$12,060,935 | 492 | \$7,607,803 |
| 1929.... | 499 | \$10,422,876 | 18 | \$3,997,999 | 481 | \$6,424,877 |
| 1928.... | 432 | \$16,236,432 | 27 | \$10,919,569 | 405 | \$5,316,863 |
| 1927.... | 492 | \$25,277,590 | 36 | \$19,181,943 | 456 | \$6,095,647 |
| 1926.... | 494 | \$16,733,792 | 37 | \$10,345,816 | 457 | \$6,387,976 |
| 1925.... | 430 | \$13,097,046 | 21 | \$6,617,945 | 409 | \$6,479,101 |
| 1924.... | 438 | \$23,136,875 | 38 | \$16,916,393 | 400 | \$6,220,482 |
| 1923.... | 388 | \$1,928,723 | 30 | \$2,011,978 | 358 | \$4,916,745 |
| Total | 1,710 | \$26,386,171 | 37 | \$7,443,520 | 1,673 | \$18,942,651 |
| 1930.... | 1,590 | \$23,426,764 | 26 | \$7,712,635 | 1,474 | \$15,714,129 |
| 1929.... | 1,388 | \$19,101,961 | 17 | \$5,749,664 | 1,371 | \$13,352,297 |
| 1928.... | 1,276 | \$16,048,734 | 13 | \$2,117,276 | 1,263 | \$12,931,458 |
| 1927.... | 1,342 | \$22,307,734 | 28 | \$8,647,181 | 1,314 | \$13,660,553 |
| 1926.... | 1,378 | \$19,093,768 | 20 | \$5,399,840 | 1,358 | \$13,693,928 |
| 1925.... | 1,427 | \$21,535,911 | 18 | \$7,204,692 | 1,409 | \$14,331,219 |
| 1924.... | 1,178 | \$18,718,944 | 23 | \$6,208,239 | 1,155 | \$12,510,705 |
| 1923.... | 1,088 | \$15,494,505 | 23 | \$4,039,507 | 1,065 | \$11,454,998 |
| All Commercial | 2,383 | \$50,868,135 | 91 | \$23,336,402 | 2,292 | \$27,531,733 |
| 1930.... | 2,198 | \$49,059,308 | 79 | \$23,478,210 | 2,119 | \$25,581,098 |
| 1929.... | 2,021 | \$35,269,702 | 48 | \$15,740,563 | 1,973 | \$21,529,139 |
| 1928.... | 1,818 | \$27,985,145 | 54 | \$18,120,704 | 1,764 | \$19,864,441 |
| 1927.... | 1,968 | \$38,487,321 | 63 | \$17,473,549 | 1,894 | \$22,021,503 |
| 1926.... | 1,957 | \$38,487,321 | 63 | \$17,473,549 | 1,894 | \$22,021,503 |
| 1925.... | 1,939 | \$37,188,622 | 45 | \$15,332,375 | 1,494 | \$21,856,247 |
| 1924.... | 1,707 | \$48,904,452 | 71 | \$20,060,961 | 1,636 | \$19,843,491 |
| 1923.... | 1,520 | \$51,491,941 | 58 | \$33,303,582 | 1,462 | \$18,188,359 |

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

(Continued from page 5)

The metals market continues unsettled, with copper and zinc at low levels; the latter metal now is at the lowest price since the beginning of the twentieth century. The footwear industry is in a better position than it was earlier in the year, and other leather products also are in better demand. Cotton consumption shows more than a seasonal rise, and the textile industry apparently is slowly improving. The demand for dry goods, notions and hosiery is fair, and millinery houses report better sales. Radio sets and supplies are not moving so well as they did earlier in the year, and the musical instrument business is quiet. Cosmetics show an improvement over the turnover a year ago, but the wholesale jewelry business is quiet.

Western States

CHICAGO.—While wholesale trade has been uneven, several wholesale dry goods houses report an encouraging improvement, in comparison with the sales at this time a year ago. Volume with the leading firms continues to run a little ahead, but the lower prices have cut dollar totals. One house had more buyers in its place on Monday than on the same date a year ago, while its sales for the week were within a few thousand dollars of the like 1930 total. Retail trade was hampered by rainy weather at mid-week, and the pressure of real estate taxes, due May 15, was not without its retardative influence.

Packers reported a better sales volume for meat, with the lower prices aiding consumption and cutting their dollar totals. After several days of deadlock, packers moved some 175,000 hides to tanners, most of these of earlier kill, at concessions of around a cent, in comparison with last week's quoted prices.

Less distress coal was reported in the Chicago wholesale market; prices, nevertheless, were highly irregular. Retail trade was slow, with the yards claiming plenty of orders available from poor credit risks.

CINCINNATI.—No marked changes have occurred in general industrial conditions during the week. Seasonal advances, usually anticipated among major industries, have not developed in proportions equal to last year's volume, notwithstanding more intensified effort toward distribution. In textile lines, prices are firm and, in this respect, no revision is looked for until the outcome of the cotton crop will have been determined.

There was a decline in volume of new building, last month. In April, 1930, the total number of permits issued was 2,296, for improvements costing \$4,914,689, while in April of this year only 1,942 permits were issued and, the cost of improvements fell to \$1,711,425. In the first four months of last year, there were 6,982 permits issued for improvements costing \$17,629,127, while in the same period of this year, there were only 6,177 permits issued calling for total improvements amounting to \$6,250,365.

CLEVELAND.—Jobbers and wholesalers in this district continue to report unabatement of the general downward trend in the volume of orders and movement of merchandise. Dollar values also have been affected by the general reduction, more or less acute, in commodity quotations. The same general situation prevails in the retail trade, the little stimulation noticed being due principally to the temporary demand for strictly seasonable merchandise.

Sales during the first four months of this year, compared with those for the same period of last year, indicate a falling off of 26 per cent. in dry goods, 29 per cent. in hardware, 12 per cent. in groceries, 16 per cent. in furniture, 4 per cent. in wearing apparel, and 5 per cent. in drugs. Department store sales in this district also fell off about 5 per cent. Many other lines show more or less decline. Paper and printing showed some weakness, production of brick and other clay materials dropped from 15 to 30 per cent. A few lines have improved in the inverse ratio, including automobile parts and accessories, electrical supplies, hardware, paints and a few other lines.



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Week's Failures Increase

CONTRARY to last week's decrease, the total of failures in the United States turned sharply upward this week, the number being 632. That is 100 above last week's defaults, and 20 above the 612 insolvencies two weeks ago. Compared with the total for last year, an increase of 107 is shown. Each geographical section, except the Pacific Coast, shows an increase. The largest gain appears in the East.

Insolvencies having an indebtedness of \$5,000, or more number 416, which is an increase of 83 over those of last week, and 105 more than the record of a year ago.

Canadian failures are below the level of last week, 43 comparing with 48. This number is 4 below the total for the comparative week of 1930.

| SECTION | Week May 7, 1931 | | Week Apr. 30, 1931 | | Week Apr. 23, 1931 | | Week May 8, 1930 | |
|---------------|---------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| | Over \$5,000 | Total | Over \$5,000 | Total | Over \$5,000 | Total | Over \$5,000 | Total |
| East | 164 | 234 | 139 | 197 | 146 | 214 | 112 | 172 |
| South | 90 | 151 | 59 | 108 | 82 | 150 | 66 | 124 |
| West | 117 | 174 | 94 | 153 | 109 | 164 | 100 | 156 |
| Pacific | 45 | 73 | 41 | 74 | 29 | 75 | 33 | 73 |
| U. S. | 416 | 632 | 383 | 532 | 306 | 612 | 311 | 525 |
| Canada | 19 | 43 | 20 | 48 | 20 | 45 | 28 | 47 |

DUN'S COMMODITY INDEX LOWER

Prices Again Show a Slight Decline—A Seasonable Movement in Part

DUN'S Index Number of wholesale commodity quotations, proportioned to the per capita consumption of each of the many articles included, was \$149.419 on May 1, and compares with \$152.525 on April 1, a decline during the month of 2.0 per cent. This reduction in prices during April is rather larger than in either of the two preceding months. In January the loss was 2.5 per cent. Compared with May 1 of last year, commodity prices, as measured by DUN'S Index Number, are now 16.0 per cent. lower than they were at that time.

The reduction during April was apparent in six of the seven divisions into which the record is separated, three of the six showing reductions being under foodstuffs. First in the record is dairy and garden products; second breadstuffs, and third meats. Lower prices for foodstuffs is quite usual at this season. Declines also appear in the clothing class, for metals, and for the miscellaneous division.

Monthly comparisons of DUN'S Index Number of wholesale commodity prices, based on the estimated per capita consumption of each of the many articles included in the compilation, follow:

| | Bread- stuffs. | Meat. | Dairy & Other Garden. | Cloth- ing. | Metals. | Miscel- laneous. | Total. |
|----------------|-------------------|--------|--------------------------|----------------|---------|---------------------|--------|
| 1928, Jan. 1.. | 32.390 | 23.480 | 22.542 | 19.451 | 36.039 | 21.897 | 37.050 |
| Feb. 1.. | 33.384 | 22.537 | 22.007 | 19.665 | 36.242 | 21.890 | 36.159 |
| Mar. 1.. | 35.591 | 22.425 | 21.797 | 19.866 | 35.895 | 21.711 | 36.502 |
| Apr. 1.. | 38.341 | 21.474 | 21.796 | 19.893 | 35.927 | 21.440 | 36.544 |
| May 1.. | 42.196 | 21.555 | 21.886 | 19.857 | 34.488 | 20.801 | 36.336 |
| June 1.. | 39.273 | 21.895 | 21.118 | 19.974 | 36.269 | 20.735 | 36.442 |
| July 1.. | 38.385 | 22.102 | 20.905 | 19.806 | 36.549 | 20.796 | 36.183 |
| Aug. 1.. | 37.190 | 23.211 | 20.761 | 19.612 | 36.051 | 20.770 | 36.537 |
| Sept. 1.. | 35.007 | 24.263 | 21.614 | 19.774 | 35.771 | 20.391 | 36.600 |
| Oct. 1.. | 34.262 | 25.790 | 21.742 | 19.573 | 35.791 | 21.145 | 36.431 |
| Nov. 1.. | 31.934 | 25.570 | 22.847 | 19.533 | 35.425 | 21.272 | 36.364 |
| Dec. 1.. | 32.040 | 25.087 | 22.138 | 19.577 | 35.635 | 21.398 | 36.668 |
| 1929, Jan. 1.. | 32.672 | 24.620 | 21.690 | 19.596 | 35.658 | 21.348 | 36.780 |
| Feb. 1.. | 34.899 | 24.697 | 22.059 | 19.497 | 35.138 | 21.303 | 36.572 |
| Mar. 1.. | 34.589 | 24.420 | 22.354 | 19.450 | 35.137 | 21.558 | 36.739 |
| Apr. 1.. | 33.663 | 24.057 | 20.940 | 19.376 | 35.066 | 21.708 | 36.786 |
| May 1.. | 32.227 | 23.503 | 21.208 | 19.277 | 34.684 | 21.308 | 36.329 |
| June 1.. | 29.671 | 23.236 | 21.145 | 19.227 | 34.500 | 21.297 | 36.780 |
| July 1.. | 32.398 | 23.591 | 21.058 | 19.110 | 34.578 | 21.214 | 36.640 |
| Aug. 1.. | 35.153 | 24.144 | 21.646 | 18.856 | 34.533 | 21.291 | 36.554 |
| Sept. 1.. | 33.743 | 24.816 | 21.838 | 19.117 | 34.799 | 21.090 | 36.801 |
| Oct. 1.. | 33.333 | 24.901 | 22.729 | 19.887 | 34.841 | 21.036 | 36.377 |
| Nov. 1.. | 34.678 | 23.110 | 22.657 | 18.690 | 34.568 | 21.148 | 36.328 |
| Dec. 1.. | 34.292 | 22.777 | 22.141 | 18.556 | 32.959 | 20.997 | 36.247 |
| 1930, Jan. 1.. | 33.801 | 22.622 | 21.618 | 18.338 | 32.297 | 20.943 | 35.994 |
| Feb. 1.. | 32.608 | 22.873 | 21.136 | 18.447 | 32.760 | 20.796 | 35.806 |
| Mar. 1.. | 32.297 | 22.130 | 20.085 | 18.202 | 32.015 | 20.558 | 35.602 |
| Apr. 1.. | 31.719 | 22.036 | 19.836 | 18.184 | 31.668 | 20.430 | 35.421 |
| May 1.. | 30.484 | 22.084 | 19.959 | 18.107 | 31.447 | 20.286 | 35.369 |
| June 1.. | 30.546 | 21.243 | 19.582 | 17.944 | 31.265 | 20.006 | 35.253 |
| July 1.. | 28.345 | 20.070 | 19.692 | 17.998 | 30.657 | 19.925 | 34.911 |
| Aug. 1.. | 29.771 | 17.939 | 19.551 | 17.850 | 29.735 | 19.846 | 34.500 |
| Sept. 1.. | 31.946 | 18.874 | 19.623 | 17.668 | 29.807 | 20.001 | 33.995 |
| Oct. 1.. | 28.984 | 18.984 | 20.190 | 17.724 | 28.487 | 20.072 | 32.768 |
| Nov. 1.. | 27.349 | 18.624 | 20.222 | 17.890 | 28.109 | 19.659 | 32.324 |
| Dec. 1.. | 27.026 | 19.057 | 19.978 | 17.688 | 27.703 | 19.571 | 32.097 |
| 1931, Jan. 1.. | 25.368 | 19.841 | 18.071 | 17.378 | 27.019 | 19.351 | 32.691 |
| Feb. 1.. | 25.244 | 17.670 | 16.949 | 17.564 | 26.702 | 19.348 | 32.572 |
| Mar. 1.. | 24.501 | 16.749 | 16.884 | 17.242 | 26.498 | 19.322 | 32.250 |
| Apr. 1.. | 24.306 | 16.196 | 16.878 | 17.221 | 26.465 | 19.374 | 31.985 |
| May 1.. | 23.521 | 15.673 | 16.893 | 17.379 | 26.168 | 18.919 | 31.866 |

UNEVENNESS IN STEEL OUTPUT

Structural Fabricators Busier, but Tin Mills make Best Showing—Further Price Shading

COMMENTS on the steel trade are still rather conservative, finishing units at some points operating at 30 to 40 per cent., but the average ingot production in the Pittsburgh district continues at close to 48 per cent. of capacity. As heretofore, tin-mill operations make the best showing, sheet demands continuing irregular and, in other departments, the situation is more or less uneven. Structural inquiries have been greater this year than last and fabricators are getting busy on some work, but several important contracts do not call for deliveries until later in the year.

Manufacturing schedules on large size pipe are tapering off, and at Valley points active open-hearth capacity has receded slightly. Automobile production for May is expected to make a fair showing, though specifications for this class of materials have been on a close basis. This prevents any satisfactory backlogs with finishing plants specializing in this line.

With new business and shipments in comparatively limited volume, the price basis is not firm and shading again has been noted. Concessions have been reported on galvanized sheets, quoted at \$2.80 to \$2.85, Pittsburgh. Merchant bars, shapes, and plates are quoted \$1.65 to \$1.70, Pittsburgh, the higher figure applying on miscellaneous lots. Cold-rolled strip steel has lost ground, quotations dropping to \$2.15, Pittsburgh, while hot-rolled strips are \$1.50 to \$1.60, Pittsburgh. The seasonal movement in wire nails and fence wire to jobbers has not been heavy, though stocks are believed kept at a low level. Nails are quoted \$1.90 to \$2, per keg, Pittsburgh.

Primary steel markets remain quiet, on the whole, and scrap has developed further weakness. In some instances, heavy melting steel was quoted down to \$11.50, Pittsburgh, though \$12, Pittsburgh, held in other quarters. At Chicago, \$9.25 to \$9.50 were quoted on this grade. Coke is dull, the furnace grade continuing nominally \$2.50, at oven. Merchant iron producers have been adhering to regular quotations at Pittsburgh which were \$17.50 for all grades.

Chicago Structural Steel Orders Gain

INGOT production at Chicago this week continued to hold around 50 per cent. of capacity at mid-week, with new business showing some improvement and specifications gaining rather sharply. Rail mill output was about 5 per cent. lower, averaging around 45 per cent., and steel sheet output held at about 50 per cent. Railroad and structural orders furnished the brightest spots in new business, about 8,000 tons out of a 15,000-ton steel rail award going to Chicago mills.

Trackage accessory orders of the last week involved 2,000 tons. Secondary rail buying is expected not to develop in quantity, however, until June or July. A structural steel award for 6,000 tons for the new outer drive bridge went to a Chicago firm, while bids were reported asked for 16,000 tons for a recently announced office building project to be started this Autumn.

The gain in specifications was chiefly in bar mill products, due to increased automotive takings, with one producer reporting orders passed to the mill last week the best thus far this year. Ruling prices were: Pig iron, \$17.50; rail steel bars, \$1.60 to \$1.65; soft steel bars, \$1.70 to \$1.80; and shapes and plates, \$1.70 to \$1.80.

There is little change in the steel situation at Buffalo. Orders are coming in spasmodically and in no large amounts. The pig iron market is quiet, with few advance orders being given. Prices still are hovering around \$17.50, as a basis.

Cotton Supply and Movement.—From the opening of the crop year on August 1 to May 1, according to statistics compiled by *The Financial Chronicle*, 13,100,173 bales of cotton came into sight, against 13,925,252 bales last year. Takings by Northern spinners for the crop year to May 1, were 908,504 bales, compared with 1,066,456 bales last year.

Current Status of Rubber Industry

(Continued from page 8)

whole. Both shipments and production of pneumatic casings are running about 10 per cent. behind the record of the corresponding period of 1930, but are substantially ahead of the total for the closing months of last year. Preliminary figures for the first quarter of this year show shipments to dealers and manufacturers of around 10,750,000 tires, against about 12,350,000 in the corresponding period of 1930.

This district generally is credited with between 60 and 70 per cent. of the total business in automobile tires. The latest inventory figures of manufacturers' stocks at hand are those of February 1, 1931; these show about 9,536,000 casings, against about 12,411,000 at the same time last year. Dealers' stocks are estimated to be almost exactly the same, standing at about 2,500,000 casings, according to the government report of April 1, 1931.

There is a normal expansion in shipments during the second quarter of around 25 per cent., but local manufacturers expect sales this year to show a gain considerably greater than the seasonal increase, owing to reduced buying and the numerous tire economies practised by the public during 1930.

It is the consensus of local opinion that no increase in tire prices can be expected in the face of the steadily declining crude rubber market, but, on the other hand, it also is felt that the day of price cuts practically is over for some time. As a whole, it is recognized generally that stabilization of the crude rubber and cotton markets is necessary before the industry can go ahead with any comprehensive expansion of operations.

The boot and shoe business suffered during the past season from generally unfavorable weather, and there is understood to have been a fairly heavy carry-over of inventory in that quarter. The mechanical goods business has been sharply off during the past year, owing to general business conditions, resulting in reduced manufacturing operations throughout the country. Sales in this line locally are regarded generally as a good index of nation-wide conditions; and, during the past sixty days, sales here have shown a steady increase and present the brightest picture in the industry at this time. Collections are fair to poor.

YOUNGSTOWN.—Production of rubber mechanical goods and solid tires is somewhat less than it was a year ago, with prices at about the same level. Wages have been adjusted at a somewhat lower figure through the medium of reduced working hours. Distribution of pneumatic tires is about equal to the total for this period of a year ago, but prices are lower. The local rubber industry is reported about holding its own and marking time, in anticipation of renewed activity. Prospects for the Summer are regarded as favorable for some slight improvement in general operations and sales.

SEATTLE.—The sales volume of rubber footwear for the first quarter of the current year is considerably under that for the like period of 1930. The decline is estimated at 40 to 50 per cent. The warm weather of late has stimulated sales of canvas footwear, but the fairly mild and pleasant Winter and Spring left a large carry-over of rubber footwear in dealers' hands. Premium offerings, to bring about the placement of orders for future delivery, have failed.

Wholesale price reductions effective at the beginning of the year amount to 8 to 10 per cent. While the volume of certain industries, such as fishing, has declined, the personnel remains much the same, and, therefore, their demand for rubber goods has held up well.

PORTLAND.—The volume of business in the rubber goods trade thus far this year has been lighter than that of last year, but there are some indications now of merchandising improvement. General betterment in trade, however, is not expected until later in the year. Buying of rubber clothing for Fall delivery usually opens in January, but there was little done then, and there is almost no demand now.

Even moderate purchasing, however, would clean up quickly the supplies carried by wholesalers. Retailers' stocks of clothing are smaller than for a long time. Mechanical lines have been affected adversely by the slowness of industry generally, particularly by the lumber mill situation in recent months.

LOS ANGELES.—Production of rubber goods in this territory is confined principally to tires and tubes, with a limited amount of hard rubber specialty lines. Quantity production of automobile tires and tubes has shown an increase the past four months over the total of the same period of 1930. The business, as a whole, is said to be about holding its own, as compared to that of previous years.

Prices are approximately 15 per cent. lower than they were a year ago, with profits in manufacturing cut to the lowest point in the history of the industry. The outlook for the Summer season is not considered favorable, and credits are reported as only fair.

Output of Pig Iron

DAILY AVERAGE PRODUCTION OF COKE PIG IRON IN THE UNITED STATES BY MONTHS SINCE JANUARY 1, 1926—GROSS TONS

(From The Iron Age)

| | 1931 | 1930 | 1929 | 1928 | 1927 |
|-----------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| January | 55,299 | 91,200 | 111,044 | 92,573 | 100,123 |
| February | 60,950 | 101,390 | 114,507 | 100,004 | 105,024 |
| March | 65,558 | 104,715 | 119,822 | 103,215 | 112,366 |
| April | 67,317 | 106,062 | 122,087 | 106,183 | 114,074 |
| May ..... | ..... | 104,283 | 125,745 | 105,931 | 109,385 |
| June ..... | ..... | 97,804 | 123,908 | 102,733 | 102,988 |
| July ..... | ..... | 85,146 | 125,100 | 96,901 | 95,199 |
| August ..... | ..... | 81,500 | 121,151 | 101,180 | 95,073 |
| September ..... | ..... | 75,890 | 116,585 | 102,077 | 92,498 |
| October | | 69,831 | 115,745 | 108,800 | 99,810 |
| November | | 62,237 | 106,047 | 110,084 | 88,279 |
| December | | 53,732 | 91,513 | 108,705 | 86,960 |

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Canadian Trade Improving

A RETURN of Spring-like temperatures during the week resulted in an improvement in both retail and wholesale distribution. At retail, sales of seasonal fabrics and garments were particularly large and there was a better demand for shoes, hosiery and millinery. At wholesale, there was a pronounced gain in the number of orders received for delivery to outside points. Aggregate volume of business in this line, however, during the current year to date, is below that of 1930, according to dispatches to DUN'S REVIEW from branch offices of R. G. DUN & Co., located in the chief commercial and industrial centers of the Dominion. In the grocery line, a normal distribution continues, with the price trend downward.

Manufacturing continues to take on more momentum, particularly in hosiery, paper bags, boxes and boots and shoes. The leather market has been fairly active, with no recent fluctuations in prices of different grades. In the shoe manufacturing industry, production has been well maintained, a number of fac-

ories working on practically a full-time basis. The building trades are quieter than usual at this season, although there are several large projects well under way. Dwelling construction is less active than it was a year ago. Construction contracts awarded throughout Canada during the first four months of 1931 totaled \$96,248,000, a decline of 30 per cent. from the 1930 figures for the corresponding period. Awards in April totaled \$22,707,000.

High winds and lack of moisture have retarded, to some extent, agricultural activities in the Prairie Provinces. No damage has been done, however, and seeding now is well under way. While showing a slight betterment, business in most agricultural districts is depressed, because farm products of all kinds, grain, livestock, butter, eggs and potatoes, continue at low prices. What prosperity was unable to accomplish, market indifference and sagging prices seem to have achieved in the Canadian mining industry. For, adversity has stimulated more thorough exploration, and scarcely a week now goes by without news of some important discovery.

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